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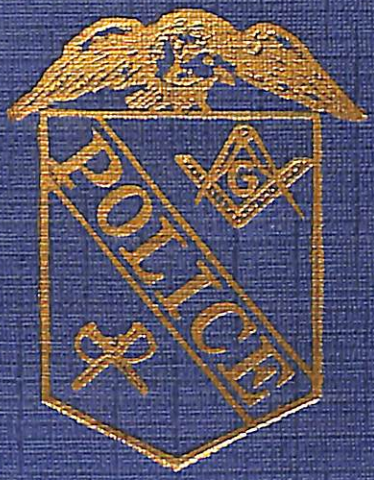

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Police Square Club of Massachusetts

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Brother Members:

Some three hundred years ago a small group of people arrived on a rocky, barren shore near Boston, Massachusetts. History tells us they were greeted by Americans, (the American Indians) and as they landed all knelt to the ground and offered thanks to Almighty God for safe deliverance.

Plymouth Rock, as it is now known to us, has many times been immortalized in song, poem and art, and as such is recognized as the birthplace of our first Thanksgiving. We as free people owe much to our Pilgrim Fathers in giving us our priceless tradition, our way of living, free speech, press, and the right to worship.

This month we again have the opportunity to express to our Creator our humble gratitude and appreciation on this Thanksgiving day. As we celebrate we should be ever mindful that our Nations have much to be grateful for, while other Nations face the spectre of starvation and misery.

We should indeed this day remember that just a short time ago our Nations were engaged in the most terrible of all wars and as we look around our loved ones at our Thanksgiving dinner table we should offer a prayer that never again may we engage in war.

Your Club has indeed much to be thankful for not only because of its splendid growth and its increasing responsibilities to mankind, but for the opportunity to serve in the way we believe in and perhaps know best—through fellowship and above all through fraternalism.

I would like to leave one thought—we are our brother's keeper and in teaching and obeying this rule there can be no room for hatred in the hearts of mankind.

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Until Sheriff Howard Vincent Quizzed William Wymer

The record of crime in this country, long and horrible as it is, contains few murders as fiendish as those committed by our teen-age killers. Should society execute these young criminals as it puts to death adult murderers? Will prisons serve as corrective institutions for them, or merely as places of punishment? Is it wiser to place the youngsters on parole, and if that is done can the public ever forget their early crimes and permit them to live normal lives?

These very questions confronted Colorado citizens in the summer of 1943. To this day they wonder whether they were right or wrong in the decision they made at that time.

We turn now to Castle Rock, which looms as a landmark high above the town of Golden, 14 miles east of Denver.

This precipitous monolith, long a challenge to the climbing Tom Sawyers and Huck Finns of the countryside, inspired in every person fear for the safety of the young climbers. Many forbade their youngsters to venture on its trails.

Their forebodings became reality on a Sunday afternoon—April 12, 1943—when news spread that the crushed and broken bodies of two little boys had been found sprawled at the foot of the cliff.

One was Donald Mattas, 8; the other was Milo Flindt, 11. Both were Golden boys, and their parents had been hunting them ever since they failed to return to their homes on Saturday night.

Donald had crashed to instant death, Milo had lived for several hours, according to Coroner C. A. Saunders, who made a post-mortem examination of the mangled bodies before giving them over to undertakers.

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The coroner, and everyone else, recalled that a brief but frightening storm had rolled up on Saturday afternoon, probably at the very time the boys were on the rock.

"They must have been scared by the wind and the rain. I guess they ran too close to the unprotected edge of the rock and slipped off," the coroner concluded. That sounded logical, and so for a few hours at least, the deaths were charged off to accident.

On Monday as the school census taker, Harold Gray, made his rounds in Daniel Gardens, a Golden real estate subdivision, everyone was discussing the tragedy. Going from house to house, Gray heard disquieting rumors about happenings on the cliff the previous Saturday afternoon.

What he heard prompted him to call, hat in hand, upon Sheriff Howard Vincent with an apologetic ". . . it may be just kid talk . . . nothing to it . . . but I thought you'd like to know."

What Gray told the sheriff sent him to Daniel Gardens. Vincent sought to interview 12-year-old Robert Rasmussen. Although Bobby had been talking a blue streak to his friends, he found himself suddenly tongue-tied in the inquiring presence of the law.

Eventually the sheriff's kindliness and patience loosed the lad's tongue and Bobby told this story:

"Yeah—it was Saturday afternoon—and there was seven of us kids decided to go up on the cliff, like we do lots of times. No, Don and Milo weren't with us. I'll come to that part.

"We was half way up when we met three strange boys coming down, and these new kids said we'd have to pay 10 cents apiece to go up and look.

"The biggest of the three boys said his father owned the mountain and we'd better pay—or else—because some cattle and other animals had been pushed off. So we paid," Bob explained breathlessly.

The boy had more to tell and he warmed up to his story when he saw that Sheriff Vincent was hanging on his words.

"Coming down, we seven separated—sort of. And when me and Ed Richner got to the bottom we saw a kid lying on the ground. He was just about alive and—"

"For God's sake, why didn't you report that immediately?" Sheriff Vincent exploded.

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"Gee, mister, we was scared. We thought we'd get blamed!" Bob answered with wide-eyed honesty. He continued:

"Well, this kid was lying sort of still by a bush. I asked him what happened. He raised his head—he was lying on his stomach—and said, "I was pushed off the cliff." But he didn't seem badly hurt, so Ed and me went on and met up with our gang.

When Bob had completed this account, Sheriff Vincent called on Ed Richner. Eddie told approximately the same story, but added that the injured boy "raised his head and looked at me and said, 'Help, I'm dying!' "

"I thought he was fooling, so I went down the mountain."

Of course Rasmussen and Richner told their five companions about the boy and one of them, Billy Staadts, 13, expostulated:

"Gee, maybe that kid was telling the truth and we ought to go back and help him."

But the other fellows, loathe to meet the toughs again and fearful of being late for their evening meals said they had to go home. Billy went back alone. Not knowing just where to look, he failed to find the boy. And, failing in his mission, he decided that Richner and Rasmussen had been pulling his leg. Consequently, he said nothing about it at home.

After supper, Staadts went to a local movie, and, to his dismay, he found the three strange bullies sitting in front of him. The big boy turned and recognized Billy.

"Did you go back to that mountain?" he whispered menacingly.

"No-n-n-no!" Billy stammered. The proximity of the toughs ruined the movie for Billy and he went home without explaining the reason for his early arrival.

From each of the seven boys Sheriff Vincent heard a description of the three strangers. The descriptions varied with the powers of observation, degree of imagination and the memory of the lads interviewed. But the sum total of information garnered by the sheriff was that the three had never before been seen in Golden; that they were larger than the Golden fellows; that all three were tough, and that the biggest one, a lanky blond, had pimples on his sallow face.

The minute the sheriff returned to Golden with his report things began to develop, for the local police chief knew that three strange

JOHN C. NELSON

Captain Commanding, Stoneham Police Dept.

Secretary

and Past President

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Dear Brother Members:

Millions of us during the past Summer have enjoyed a well earned vacation. Many for the first time in four years of war and anxiety, have sought surcease from daily toil, by loading the car with family or friends, and departing on the open road. All attendance records at our National Parks, resorts, beaches and mountains, have had the largest crowds in history.

This, I believe, is a fine thing. To go when and where we will, without wartime restraint or regulations, is as typically American as free speech or a free press. I, of course, include our Canadian brothers who have the same ideals, love of country, common interests.

Now vacation time is over. Most of us have returned to our homes, refreshed in mind and body, with a greater appreciation of our democracies and all the privileges we can and do enjoy as free people.

If, then, all good things (vacationally speaking) must temporarily come to an end, let us return again to the obligations we have as good citizens. Let us re-create the spirit of true democracy and forever guard zealously these privileges that only our two remaining democratic nations can enjoy.

Your Club and its White Collar Campaign has several objectives, not just necessarily in the building of membership, but in the preservation of our ways of life. This campaign believes in the preservation of small business (and incidently before the war over 60% of the nation's business was done by firms with an authorized capital of a million dollars or less), assistance for salesmen, business men, and returned veterans.

Every officer and employee, as well as myself is pledged to serve you, to help your Association in the building of our Club. It is my obligation to remember always that we are your officers and as such, your interests are Paramount. In closing, may I give you one more thought:

Rome endured as long as there were Romans. We, as Americans, will endure as long as we remain so in spirit and thought.

Fraternally,

JOHN C. NELSON,

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boys had been picked up as vagrants on Sunday when they were found asleep in a hotel room.

These three, who answered the description of the Castle Rock bullies, identified themselves as Denver boys and were returned immediately to their home town, 14 miles west, for violation of juvenile court probation.

"We'll get them back here," said the police chief.

By Monday night the three boys returned to Golden, were identified as the extortionists by the seven local boys.

Then the Denver youths were turned over to the sheriff and his deputies, who sought, by steady questioning, to learn what—if anything—these strangers knew about the deaths of Donald and Milo.

The big boy was William Wymer, 16. The others were his brother Arthur Wymer, 14, and his friend, Robert Lavasseur, also 14.

"We don't know nothin'," Arthur and Robert insisted over and over again, and at first William joined in their denials.

As the hours wore on, William clamped his jaws and sat as silent as Castle Rock itself. But finally he blurted:

"If you'll shut up—let us alone—I'll tell you what happened?"

Wymer began his story haltingly, but as he swung into the main portion of his tale, he took meticulous care—aye, even some pleasure—in relating every astounding detail. His sullenness dropped away and he was like a boy relating the plot of a movie.

Yes, he and his brother and his friend, defiant over the restrictions of a juvenile court parole which kept them within the confines of Denver, had left home to tour the countryside. On Friday they reached Golden, where they rented and paid for a hotel room and spent the night.

On Saturday, looking for something to do, they had, like so many other boys, been attracted by the inviting upward trail of Castle Rock. They started climbing.

They were about 20 feet from the top of the rock when they sighted two younger boys—Don and Milo—scrambling upward.

"They got on pretty good clothes and they look like a good haul," William said. (Actually, Donald and Milo, in their Saturday afternoon play clothes, were just about as sloppy as any other school boys on a

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day off, but their clothes were a considerable improvement over the rags and tatters of the Denverites.)

William's words were a signal to waylay the little fellows. The Denverites doubled up their fists. But there was no fight in the Golden boys. Trembling, and fumbling, between them they dug 25 cents—all they had—from their pockets and handed it over on command.

"I put the money in my pants pocket and then I spotted one kid's wrist watch," said William. "I told him I'd take that."

White-faced and shivery, the little boy—it was Donny Mattas—unstrapped the watch, which was his pride and joy, and handed it over.

Then William glared at Milo and, pointing first at Milo's good shoes and then at Arthur Wymer's old and broken footwear, he said: "Hey you! Give this guy your shoes and socks!"

Milo obeyed with alacrity born of fear and Arthur, kicking off his own shoes and hanging his torn socks on a convenient twig, slipped into Milo's comfortable footgear.

"Can Milo wear my overshoes over his bare feet?" Don asked. Magnanimously William agreed, and Don unbuckled the boots his mother had insisted he wear and handed them to his friend.

Milo and Don, thinking their ordeal over, were all for scrambling down the trail and getting away from their tormentors as fast as they could, but William would have none of that.

"Naw, you go on up to the top," he directed, "and don't do nothin' fancy. We'll be followin' you."

Panting with fright, the younger boys clutched hands and clambered up the 20 feet.

"I got a side ache. I'll stay here," Robert Lavasseur called after William. Arthur trudged doggedly after his brother. A storm broke suddenly. Pelting rain and sleet came down the mountainside, and Arthur stopped to get his breath. But the captives puffed upward, beating against the storm, with William at their heels.

And so the Golden boys and William reached the flat top of Castle Rock. The eyes of the little boys darted frantically about seeking a way of escape. The big boy glowered at them, a strange light in his pale blue eyes.

Without a word he grabbed Milo's wrist, pulled him to the brink, and pushed him into space. Milo's screams echoed among the rocks

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and then died away as his hurtling body struck a ledge 75 feet down, bounced off, and plummeted again.

Don watched, too terrified to scream.

Wymer seized him. Donny tried to hold fast with his heels, but the unyielding rock surface beneath him offered no brake, and his 8-year-old weight was no match for that of 16-year old Wymer. He, too, was jerked to the edge and shoved off.

"Sure. I pushed them," Wymer told his horrified listeners, in a voice which might have been discussing the weather. "I planned to push them off when I got to the top because dead men tell no tales. I kinda felt sorry for the big boy as I watched him fall. He hollered so much. I don't think the little kid said anything and I didn't watch him."

At this point in the confession, Arthur Wymer, fascinated by his big brother's recital took over:

"I heard two screams. I ran ahead around the curve in the trail just in time to see Bill standing on the rock's top, looking down. He told me he'd killed two kids."

Lavasseur broke in:

"I heard the scream and then Lucky—that's what we call him when we don't call him Bill— came running down to say he'd just pushed two boys off the mountain. He told us not to talk about it though, and he said:

"'Those kids won't be with their mothers for Easter, and that white stuff will cover them up.' The white stuff was hail and snow."

When the three Denver boys started down the trail they ran into the seven boys from whom they took 70 cents, and then went down into the town which nestled comfortably at the foot of the rock.

First they went to a jeweler and tried, unsuccessfully, to sell Donny's watch. Then they went to the movie which Billy Staadts the boy behind them, did not enjoy because of their presence. After that they returned to the hotel where they had spent the previous night. They burglarized it of candy, tobacco, liquor, $5 in cash and a passkey.

Chuckling over their loot, they used the passkey to get into an untenanted room, where they passed the night eating, chewing and drinking until they fell asleep. There they were arrested on Sunday morning and sent back to Denver.

One week after Wymer confessed that he was the perpetrator of

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this crime as brutal as the work of most adult murderers, he was charged with the death of Milo Flindt. The Mattas case was held back as a cause for action to be used if the State failed to convict Wymer for Milo's death. There wasn't much likelihood of that, for both Arthur Wymer and Robert Lavasseur agreed to be state's witnesses.

William felt very, very sorry for himself, an emotion which was shared by some, but not by the citizens of Golden.

"String him up!"

"Convict him and execute him!"

But against these harsh local demands voices arose to remind hotheads that William was still a child, that he was, perhaps, insane, that he had certainly been the victim of bad companions, bad environment, and a broken home. He should, it was argued, be treated as a sick boy.

But when the time for his trial came around, William, through his court-appointed attorney, O. Otto Moore, pleaded "Not guilty by reason of insanity."

By psychiatrists and witnesses who testified before District Judge Osmer E. Smith, the State sought to prove William sane and guilty. The defense sought to prove just the opposite by relating the details of Wymer's shabby life as seen through the eyes of his relatives, who flocked to Golden for the trial.

William was the child—one of five—of divorced parents. The father, Arthur Wymer, lived in Toledo. The mother, Violet Nicewonder Wymer, and the children lived for a while in Denver with her mother, the Rev. Leona Hutchins, founder, pastor and president of the Spiritual Master's Church.

After Violet took a second husband, Joe Daniel Burks, a truck driver, the Wymer children lived sometimes in the Burks home, which was in a poor neighborhood, and sometimes with Mrs. Hutchins. The mother was lenient and let her children run free. The grandmother was strict and let them run not at all. As a result of this uncertain existence, both William and Arthur had become juvenile court problems.

"I just can't believe Billy did the things they say he did," said Mrs. Burks on the stand. "He's never been a bad boy, but I think he's not grown up emotionally to his age. You see, he's never been quite right.

"One morning he woke up and seemed powerless to help himself. He didn't speak or recognize people. Then, during 1942 and 1943, he

CARLISLE F. TAYLOR

Chief of Fitchburg Police Dept.

1st Vice-President

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

became boastful and lied and complained of headaches. We kept him out of school four months."

Other relatives testified that for six years past their Billy had been backward, unreliable and subject to seizures. One pointed out that his maternal grandmother had died of epilepsy.

Three defense psychiatrists did their best to prove William mentally incompetent.

"He boasted of trying to confuse the doctors," said Dr. Charles A. Rymer. "He was sometimes too friendly with nurses. He was progressively more irritable. He is unable to distinguish his acts or to appreciate the magnitude of his most recent one. He is a menace to society. His behavior is dangerous and his intelligence quotient fixed at 9 years."

Said Dr. Edward Delahanty: "Bill has the beginning of dementia praecox, for which improvement is uncertain."

And Dr. Leo V. Tepley, concurring, said: "Bill's mental age is lower than 9, his mind is diseased as well as defective, he has delusions and deceives."

In view of this strong defense testimony, the prosecutor took five hours for rebuttal.

And through all the summing up before the jury, State and defense batted back and forth the questions: Is the boy a case-hardened criminal? Is he sick? Is he insane? Is he more sinned against than sinning? Shall we put him in an asylum? Shall we execute him? Shall we send him to prison? How should a boy criminal be treated—if he is a criminal?

For six long hours of sweating and shouting, the members of the jury—eight of them fathers—tossed these same questions about.

Finally they reached a verdict and returned to the courtroom to announce that they had found William guilty of murder in the first degree, and that they recommended a sentence of life imprisonment.

Mrs. Burks sobbed. Wymer licked his lips and flicked tears from his eyes as Judge Smith pronounced the life sentence.

And so the 16-year-old was whisked away to the Colorado State Penitentiary at Canon City.

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"Wymer needs psychiatric attention he couldn't get at Boys Town. Warden Roy Best of the penitentiary will see that he receives it."

Said Warden Best:

"I'll see that the Wymer boy is kept away from hardened criminals. I know how these wolves act toward young inmates or at least try to."

There is no doubt that Warden Best spoke sincerely and was filled with the best intentions in the world. But selecting jail companions for a prisoner is a full-time job and the warden had other things to do.

Within 15 months Wymer's favorite jail mates were Jerry Vignola, 39, a Denver murderer who had been in prison since 1926, and Jack Swan, 40, a mental case, considered dangerous.

On Oct. 16, 1944, these three friends decided to go out into the world together—in other words, they engineered a jail break.

At 8 a. m., escaping from their cell house, they dropped one by one through a manhole into a convenient sewer. They sloshed their way for 100 feet through sewer filth, then they ran into bars. They were equipped for this emergency, drew out their hidden saws and went to work on the bars.

But a guard heard the noise of their sawing. He investigated, and the three pals were escorted back to their cells.

Fifteen months have passed since Wymer made that bid for freedom. Since then his prison behavior has been fair, but—

"We don't trust him," says Warden Best. "No use attempting to educate him. He won't even learn a trade."

There seems little likelihood that Wymer, whose conviction was upheld by the Colorado Supreme Court, will be given a parole even in 1953, when he can make application for it.

When, or if, he is freed what sort of a man will he be? Should he be in prison? Should he be in a hospital? Should he be free?

Yes, the young Wymers of this country offer old Justice a most perplexing problem.

CECIL E. LEWIS

Lieutenant, Boston Police Dept.

2nd Vice-President

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

REVENGE COSTS TOO MUCH

Charles Rizzo knew where to lay the finger on a paymaster who was easy for a stick-up. Tony Dorio could get an automobile: Tom Milo and John Tomasello had pistols. The four combined assets and went after the money. Something went wrong and the police picked them up on their way to the job.

A trial jury convicted them of attempted robbery. Three of the men went to Sing Sing: Rizzo appealed. The New York Court of Appeals agreed that Rizzo had intended to commit a serious crime and had prepared to commit it. But he had not got to the technical point of having "attempted" robbery. So the court set him free.

Of Rizzo's companions, Judge Crane, who wrote the court's opinion, added: "Two of these men were guilty of carrying concealed weapons, pistols, contrary to the law. Two of them had also been previously convicted. However, the law would fail in its purpose if it permitted these three men to serve a sentence for a crime which the courts declared had not been committed. We therefore suggest to the district attorney that he bring the cases of these three men to the attention of the governor to be dealt with as to him seems proper in the light of this opinion."

The three men were promptly set free.

In that judicial decision the function of the criminal law today is epitomized. It does not ask, is a man dangerous to public safety: but only, does he deserve punishment. The wisdom of the law needs thoughtful reconsideration now, when every authority predicts a heavy increase in crime.

Ask a man on the street why the law punishes criminals and the answer will probably be, "To prevent crime, of course." Yet, as a preventive, punishment is a farce.

Eddie Murphy recently made headlines by his 100th conviction in a Detroit criminal court. Eddie would undoubtedly soon have begun

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his second hundred had not the last conviction been for snatching a woman's purse—robbery—for which he was sentenced to a term that will hold him from crime for several years. Most of Eddie's offenses were not serious: he was just a social nuisance. But his record demonstrates that even trivial offenses may not be stopped by punishment.

Records of repeated punishment for serious crimes also run high. This is James Griffnor's: 1907, burglary, two years; 1908, burglary, two years; 1910, burglary, five years—(all periods of confinement reduced by "good conduct" or parole); 1914, homicide, ten years to life (escaped); 1915, rape, 12 years; 1923, burglary, "indeterminate" sentence; 1929, assault (penalty not recorded); 1933, burglary, one year to life.

Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck studied the records, selected at random, of 422 released convicts and found that 333 had within five years committed 1014 fresh offenses. Thorsten Sellin, in his studies for the American Law Institute, discovered that more than half the inmates of our penitentiaries—wherein only serious offenders are confined—have been in penitentiaries one or more times before. Small wonder that from such figures Mr. Sellin draws the pessimistic conclusion that punishment, instead of preventing crime, leaves men *seven times more likely to offend than those who have not been punished.*

The reason for punishment's failure to prevent crime is understandable. Men do not *expect* to be caught and punished. Never in history have men been stayed from grasping at gain by the threat of pain or death. Effective prevention requires something other than punishment—not something in addition, but an outright substitute. Real prevention can operate only upon four basic principles, each of which is emphatically inconsistent with punishment, namely:

That some offenders shall not be imprisoned at all:

That others shall never be allowed their freedom:

That the causes of the criminality of all offenders shall be sought for and if possible eliminated;

That offenders who have been given freedom shall be not merely watched lest they offend again but shall be actively assisted to abstain from fresh offense.

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Often, as a *preventive* measure, it may be unnecessary and unwise to imprison an offender. There is the danger that by imprisonment comparative innocence will be contaminated by evil associations.

On the other hand, punishment cannot logically keep an offender in prison for longer than his offense "deserves," no matter how dangerous he may be to the public. Dominick Piccone is an illustration. When he had served four years of punishment for attempted rape, the psychologists recommended against his release. They said that he was "definitely assaultive and potentially homicidal." But Piccone had served his sentence and the authorities, against their will, were compelled to set him free. Within two weeks he had murdered three good citizens.

When a criminal is in custody, common sense suggests that every effort be made to eliminate the cause of his criminality. That can be done: not always, but sometimes. The Rochester police were bothered by a series of burglaries that did not look professional. Eventually a 16-year-old boy—whom I shall call Joel—boasted too loudly and the police gathered him in. The loot was found in his closet.

Joel came before a juvenile-court judge who was shrewd enough to see what was wrong. The boy was bald as an egg, and the constant butt of his fellows' ridicule. He had sought to prove that if he had less hair than they he had more guts. To have "punished" that boy would have made him a lifelong criminal. The judge ordered him given a realistic wig and moved to the home of an aunt where nobody knew him. There is no record of Joel's committing further crime.

In another case, a youngster who persisted in stealing money for candy, despite repeated chastisement, was discovered to suffer from serious lack of sugar content in the blood stream. A sugar-inducing diet stopped his thievery. How many similar causes of repeated crime might be corrected by psychiatry, surgery, or other science, no one knows—because "punishment" is not concerned, and no attempt to find out has been made.

Punishment, indeed, is incapable of turning its victims back to freedom better able to live honestly than before. On the contrary, it releases them as mentally backward and as subject to all the causes of crime as before it touched them. They go forth, in fact, even less equipped to withstand the pressures of economic competition than before—the mechanic untutored in the developments of his trade, the

CLINTON A. HEITMAN

Lieutenant, Brookline Police Dept.

3rd Vice-President

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

accountant's skill rusty from disuse, the laborer too soft for a full day's work.

The period following release is a critical time, when abstention from crime hangs in the balance. Prevention demands every reasonable provision for helping the individual to abstain. But "punishment" cannot help.

Michigan and Iowa, most generous of the states, give the released convict a suit of clothes, $25 and a railroad ticket. Indiana gives him $10 and a "durable" suit of clothes, which "shall not cost to exceed $6." Florida presents him with "$5 to provide the necessities of life until he can procure work."

Where can the offender find shelter and help? With his shoddy clothes, his prison pallor: with no money for union dues in union-occupied trades, no money for the tools of his craft if he has one: barred by his fingerprints from employment in many industries, distrusted everywhere, he must turn perforce to the environment which sent him to prison before and which will probably send him back.

Will the man on the street, to whom legislatures look for approval, ever approve of prevention? He has declined so far, I think, because the advocates of prevention have over-cautiously advocated new methods *within the framework of punishment*—probation as a mere exemption from punishment: trade-training within the penitentiaries: penal rehabilitation: penal correction. All of which is penal nonsense. Punishment and prevention are inconsistent and uncombinable.

Crime *can* be more effectively checked. But not by tinkering with the penal laws. Those laws must be boldly discarded. Crime must no longer be defined as an act which is punishable but as something which demonstrates that the criminal is socially dangerous.

In our present punitive system, following conviction, the trial judge determines who shall go to prison, where and for how long. Some judges rely upon investigation by a probation officer: some speculate on the criminal's looks and the evidence at the trial. One federal judge used probation in 62 percent of his cases: another, on the same court, trying the same type of case, in four percent. One judge's sentences averaged 851 days each: another's 40 days.

After commitment to prison, a parole board determines how much less than the sentence a prisoner need stay. It cannot, however, hold

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him longer. Nobody is charged with responsibility for finding out *why* the convict offended and *how* he can be prevented from offending again.

In a preventive system, essentially the same specified activities will make the offender legally subject to study and treatment by a highly trained and well-paid commission. The commissioner's function will be to search out the cause of each convicted person's wrongdoing and the possibilities of correction: to set up facilities for the use of preventive medicine and psychiatry, for training toward economic self-sufficiency; and actively to assist convicts in law-abiding life after discharge.

So long as release appears unsafe the commission will retain its control over its wards, by supervised freedom or actual confinement. A power like that could be abused. But it would not be difficult to safeguard its exercise carefully: more carefully than today's power of the judge.

Although for 4000 years we have sought satisfaction for crime in punishment—and have been dissatisfied— I think we shall forego punishment when we truly appreciate the meaning of prevention and the cost of revenge.

ARCHIBALD MacLENNAN

Patrolman, Metropolitan District Police Dept.

Past President and Auditor

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

BEST PLANS FOR "PERFECT CRIME" HAVE FAILED

The plotting of a perfect crime has been the dream of every would-be murderer since Cain. But although police departments of large cities have long lists of unsolved killings, most of them of the variety known as crimes of passion, rarely premeditated, criminologists maintain that the perfect crime is as yet an unaccomplished fact. The best laid plans for murder usually go awry, due to some oversight or act of carelessness on the part of the killer.

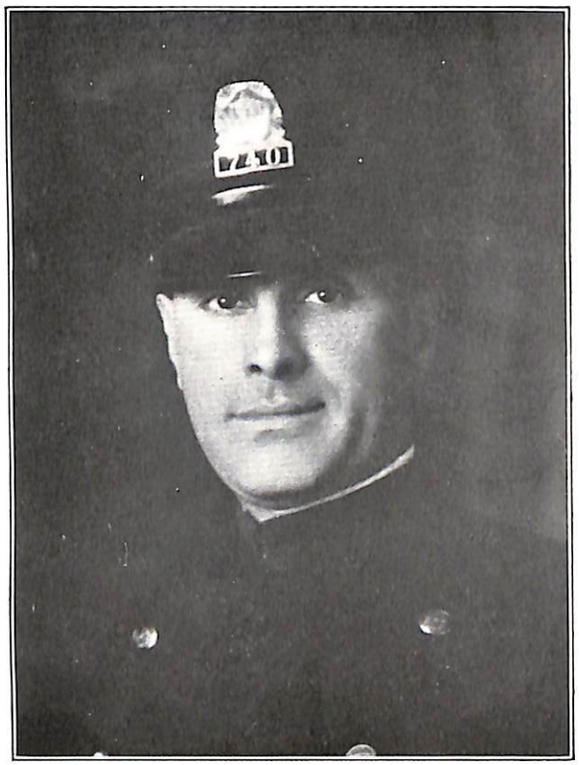
Consider, for example, the recent brutal shooting of Elizabeth McLindon, once housekeeper to the King of Greece, in her London flat, by Arthur Brice, an ex-soldier, who was known to have proposed marriage to her although already married.

Brice set his plans very neatly. He was seen by no one when he entered the flat of his supposed beloved and deliberately shot her dead, through the back of the head. Even the victim probably never saw him. But he made one little mistake that brought him to the gallows.

At the scene of the crime he left an empty cartridge case bearing the mark of the striker.

While Brice, in an attempt to divert suspicion from himself, pretended to be anxiously seeking knowledge of the woman he knew was dead by his own hand, by letter and by telephone calls to the very flat where she sat in death's statue-like stillness, the police were active.

Scotland Yard wasn't so easily fooled, even though they seemingly paid little attention to Mr. Brice and his fake worries. They started looking for cartridge shells bearing the same mark as the one used in the murder weapon. They found the one they wanted in an old coat that Brice had been keeping for his friend, John C. Rowland, since he had joined the army. The striker marks were identical and that was the end of that perfect crime.



JOSEPH CELATA

Patrolman, Boston Police Dept.

Past President

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

DRY ICE MURDER

In another attempt to execute the perfect crime, recently dramatized on the radio with right names withheld, a carnival trouper, wanting to marry another trouper's husband, rigged up a method whereby the victim would inhale the poisonous fumes of dry ice and be found dead with nobody but herself to blame.

There wasn't a clue to anything criminal apparent. The victim had been known to drink to excess and to have a habit of passing out while under the influence of liquor. Presumably she had done it once too often.

But because of the transient habits of the people concerned and the immediate taking over of the whole act of the dead woman by the murderess, an autopsy was made. It revealed the one flaw in the plot that could not have been covered by any planning, however skillful. The woman's heart was in perfect condition. It hadn't failed as believed. That oversight carried two, the husband and the other woman, to the electric chair.

FAMOUS HUB CASE

A noted Boston scientist once tried his hand at the perfect crime in the amazing killing of the wealthy socialite, Dr. George Parkman, founder of the Massachusetts Medical College and a member of Boston's famed Parkman family.

The murderer was John White Webster, master of arts and a doctor of medicine, professor of chemistry and mineralogy, lecturer in the Massachusetts Medical College and honored member of the Massachusetts Medical Society and the St. Petersburg Mineralogical Society.

Because he owed his old friend and associate, Dr. Parkman, a debt of $2,432, he schemed his version of the perfect crime. There had been a series of loans and for the last of them, entered into in 1847, Professor Webster had pledged, not only his household furniture, but his precious collection of minerals. Later, still in financial difficulties, Webster borrowed more money on his collection from a brother-in-law. But his income failed to increase and he couldn't pay even the interest. So he devised a scheme to cut down his indebtedness.

On Friday, Nov. 23, 1849, when Dr. Parkman left the medical college, he was in perfect health and in good spirits. He was never seen alive again.

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Two days later a very worried and solicitous Professor Webster called on Dr. Parkman's family and reported that on the fateful day the doctor had called upon him and collected a debt. He was worried for fear some one had waylaid him for the money.

The police shared his worry, calling upon him for all the details he had, and when they suggested a search of his house as a matter of routine, he showed them about, omitting, however, to show them one small room.

No one seemed to suspect the professor until the janitor, Ephraim Littlefield, noticed that he had stayed in his laboratory for several days and refused to allow a fire to be lighted in the furnace, although fires had been lighted there by himself. The janitor was further puzzled by the gift of a Thanksgiving turkey from the professor, the first and only gift he had ever received from him.

After telling the police of his suspicions, he led them into the locked laboratory by means of a window and there they discovered portions of a burned human body. Dr. Parkman's blood-stained clothing was also found. Webster was found guilty of the murder and hanged on Aug. 30, 1850. His one little slip was in arousing the suspicion of the janitor by refusing to let him tend the furnace as usual.

WHOLESALE KILLER

Curiously enough the murder of a woman and her three children with an axe, and the burning of her house to cover up the crime, disclosed a long series of seemingly perfect crimes committed by Mrs. Belle Gunness in Indiana.

Arrested for the triple killing, her hired man, named Lamphere, confessed that he had to kill her to save his own life as "he knew too much."

Pressed for further details, Lamphere told the police that the woman was a wholesale murderer, who killed her victims to get their money by putting them in a private lethal chamber, chloroforming them, then braining them with an axe. She buried the victims about the farm.

Investigation confirmed Lamphere's statements as to the buried bodies. Usually a single body was buried in each grave with quicklime to hasten disintegration.

HAROLD F. PICK

Sergeant, Arlington Police Dept.

Chairman, Board of Directors

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

And beneath the ruins of the burned house a sort of sub-cellar filled with human bones was discovered. The lethal chamber was described by Lamphere as being a sound-proof room, with self-locking doors, and barred windows tightly sealed.

ADVERTISED FOR VICTIMS

She attracted her victims by advertising in small-town newspapers all over the country. The advertisement never differed, reading:

> "*Personal*—Comely widow who owns large farm in one of the finest districts of La Porte county, Ind., desires to make the acquaintance of a gentleman unusually well provided, with a view to joining fortunes. No replies by letter will be considered unless the sender is willing to follow an answer with a personal visit.'"

Mrs. Gunness seems to have been a particularly bloodthirsty individual. Police later discovered that she started her long string of murders by poisoning her first husband, Albert Sorenson, after having insured him for a considerable amount. With this money she bought her infamous "Murder Farm," and then married and slew Gunness.

Her victims totaled more than 100, according to police estimate, based on the 37 complete bodies exhumed and the quantity of human bones also found.

But for her single slip in not getting Lamphere into her "Guest Chamber" before he turned murderer himself, Mrs. Gunness might have gone on indefinitely with her perfect crimes, for apparently, no particular attempts ever had been made to trace any of the many missing men and women who had been her visitors through the five years of her known activity.

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They Charge Up to 2000 Per Cent Interest and Usually Get Their Money — or Their Man

Gerald Marino, a truck driver, was shot dead in the hallway of his Brooklyn home by two hired thugs. His wife told police he had received a warning two days before from a loan shark.

"Pay up or get knocked off," the threat read.

Mrs. Miriam Rosenchild, also of Brooklyn, hysterically rushed into a police station. A loan shark had telephoned her about her husband's debt.

"Your husband will be delivered home in a bag unless he pays up."

Mrs. Rosenchild pawned her two diamond rings for $30 and gave this to the money lender. But it didn't help. Her husband had borrowed $200 and with the $30 had paid $174. Next week the shark came around and threatened them again. He told them to auction off their furniture. The shark was arrested.

Terrorism like that is the usual gangster loan shark practice.

Underworld gangs have taken over in many cities, where tightening legal restrictions against court collections have caused the loan sharks to resort to blackmail, beatings and killings.

New York City has records of 17 murders in five years traced to loan sharks. A recent survey by the Public Affairs Committee of New York found that these vultures are mulcting the nation's public out of $100,000,000 a year. Rates of interest as high as 2000 per cent are charged.

This is one of the many rackets by which swindlers are reaping a rich harvest from the $180,000,000,000 in savings and bonds accumulated by thrifty Americans during the war years.

CHRISTOPHER M. GARLAND

Patrolman, Braintree Police Dept.

Past President

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

Money is easy to get from loan sharks, many of whom have no offices but their vest pockets. They are ready with any sum up to $300. The average loan is below $100.

A painter was being squeezed for a small loan. Desperate and fearing death threats, he turned holdup man and killer to raise the money. He was sent to the electric chair.

One enterprising racketeer didn't wait for borrowers to come to him. His racket was worked this way: He called himself the Better Laundry Service, and equipped with cards to prove it, canvassed housewives.

But, being a sympathetic guy, he soon was listening to their money troubles, including stories of household money they lost at cards and couldn't replace. The obliging shark came up with a $25 loan to be repaid in six weeks at $5 a week. The racket was smashed after one woman complained of having been beaten.

Women members of card playing clubs are easy victims. Two holdup men who had raided a card game in a Brooklyn home were arrested. It was learned the bandits were associated with loan sharks. They mentioned the name of a Brooklyn mother. This woman, desperate over her losses at the game, trying to keep her secret from her husband and pressed by a loan shark for a debt she could not pay, had arranged with the gang for the holdup.

A gang found a way to beat the loan shark law through the instalment jewelry racket. The borrower doesn't want the jewelry. He wants cash. He gets the money by pawning the article he buys. To get $50 he must buy a ring or watch costing $100 to $200. He pays $2 a week.

Crooked lenders found a way to muscle in on "check cashing" agencies which operate legally in many cities. The agencies usually have a small store front.

On pay days, workers can stop on the way home and cash their pay checks. Fees of one per cent on a $50 check and one-half per cent if higher are charged. Here is how the loan racket is worked by some.

Mr. Dupe has been cashing his pay checks every month at an agency near his job. A fellow employee, often in on the racket, lets it drop that

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the agency sometimes makes loans. Sometimes Mr. Dupe runs short between pay days. One night he asks the cashier as he cashes his check whether he would be good for a loan, if needed. The cashier evades:

"Well no, but if you run short, come in to see us."

Mr. Dupe does run short before next pay day and goes to the window. He is asked:

"Do you have a checking account?"

Mr. Dupe doesn't. He is told he should get $5 and open a special checking account at any bank which handles such accounts. These can be opened in some banks with $1. Mr. Dupe returns with a book of blank checks he got with opening of the account. He writes a check for $25. He also signs an affidavit stating he has received full value. Check and affidavit are predated his next pay day. The cashier gives him $20, retaining $5 as interest. The affidavit proves no loan was made.

Mr. Dupe now has his real problem. A $25 check is coming due at the bank and he hasn't enough money in the bank to meet it. He has to get the money in the bank. When the fatal day comes, if he hasn't the money the sharks will really have him. He tells the cashier.

"That's all right," the cashier says. "Just write another one dated next month for $30." He gets no money on this transaction. Mr. Dupe is allowed to redeem a second, a third, fourth and so on until he is writing three figure checks with $5 in the bank. And all he ever got was $20.

Authorities recently revealed that usurious money lenders are advancing money to veterans on the strength of their mustering-out pay.

A simple legal way is open to people who need small loans. Of the 15,000 banks in the country, 12,000 have personal loan departments which lend at low rates of interest. They welcome borrowers. All that is needed in order to borrow money is that the applicant have a job and an indorsement for his note. The indorsement is not always required.

LEONARD A. ANDREWS

Chief, Manchester Police Dept.

Board of Directors

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

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The motor vehicle is an instrument of advancement and progress for the citizens of our nation and our states. It has also become an instrument of destruction in the hands of the careless and the thoughtless citizen, bringing death to thousands, and injury to millions in our national life. As a public official I know the awful toll of highway accidents on our own state highways.

The automobile presents a great problem to every state and every community within the state. There is no more tragic waste of human life, no more unnecessary cause of human suffering, no more needless source of economic loss than traffic accidents. We must not subscribe to the smug philosophy that accidents will happen, and there is not much we can do about it. Accidents are caused—we can, we must, do something about them, and an adequate traffic safety program of state and local governments, fully supported by organizations and individuals, can prevent deaths and accidents on the highways.

In Massachusetts we have been the spearhead of an educational program on driver education and training, and a safety program for both pedestrians and motorists. We have stepped up our educational program by appointing an acting supervisor of safety instruction with a staff of eight trained men who, through the use of moving pictures and the spoken word, are instructing children and adults on how to conduct themselves as pedestrians and motorists.

We have also established a pre-driver education or training program with a supervisor, and two field men to promote this educational activity in all the high schools in the state. In order to secure full cooperation of school superintendents and principals, and to improve

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this program in Massachusetts, I invited a group of educators to act as an advisory committee. This committee is now in successful operation.

No administration can be successful unless it has a strong enforcement program. The Governor and Council and the Legislature of Massachusetts have been very generous in making it possible for my department to have more inspectors. This year we have trained 20 new men and assigned them to our enforcement group, and have at the present time 20 more in training. All these men are veterans of the second World War.

Incidentally in Massachusetts two years ago we set up, under driver licensing, a special veterans' section, where we handle all our special veterans' cases, including paraplegic and amputee cases. I think we were the first state in the Union to provide this service, and the far-reaching results and success attained are among the outstanding achievements of the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles.

I feel that it is vitally necessary to see that the public is not only properly informed through all available media of the necessity and importance of this work but asked to cooperate with the aims of this department in making the highways of Massachusetts the safest in the country.

To the Boston Automobile Club which has supported school safety programs which embrace not only the problem of the child in the street but also the training of the high-school student, the registry and the whole motoring community owe a vote of thanks.

The primary purpose of the AAA is to better motoring conditions generally. Cooperation is fundamental to the preservation of the American system. It is vital to all motorists.

In the apt slogan of your current safety drive, let's all cooperate when walking or driving and "TAKE IT EASY."

HARRY R. STANFIELD

Patrolman, Brookline Police Dept.

Board of Directors

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

MISSING MONEY

The mine detector, a sensitive mechanism on a long handle, emitted a humming noise, signifying to its soldier-operator that something metallic was beneath the surface of the ground.

A postal inspector marked the spot, and diggers started in. Previous gangs had dug six feet down in the same place, but this time they didn't quit at that depth. Nine feet down, they found what they were looking for—not a mine, but $153,150 stuffed in a length of stove pipe.

These bills were the remnants of a $180,000 haul, stolen from the Jacksonville, Fla., postoffice two years ago by J. D. Marshall, a clerk who later confessed to the theft on his deathbed, but took the secret of its hiding place with him. The mine detector was Postal Inspector Walter Palmer's idea, and it paid off.

Marshall handled the registry window. He was familiar with the packages of currency the Federal Reserve Bank dispatched to banks in its territory. One day he substituted a dummy package for the shipment of bills and, as simple as that, took home $180,000.

The dummy package arrived at its destination, where bank clerks found, not $180,000, but a wad of newspapers. Handwriting experts identified the handwriting on the package as Marshall's.

Marshall was awaiting trial when he was suddenly stricken with acute appendicitis. When he knew he could not live he confessed to the robbery.

Death took him in the middle of a sentence—a sentence that began: "It was buried . . ."

Chief Inspector J. J. Doran estimates that not more than $75,000 in actual cash is still unrecovered from postal robberies, but the total value of other loot is high.

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Take, for example, the robbery committed by Gerald Chapman and his accomplices in the middle of New York City, 25 years ago. At the time official estimates were over $2,000,000.

Chapman was hanged, several years later, for the murder of a Connecticut policeman. His accomplices passed on in one way or another. But the money is still missing.

After the hold-up, Chapman and his pal, "Dutch" Anderson, often hit the hotspots in New York. Chapman earned the title of "Count of Gramercy Square" through his luxuriant taste in clothes, food, drink and beautiful women.

The robbery was as daring as it was lucrative. The gang knew that a truck left the downtown postoffice in New York at a certain time each day, laden with valuables from Wall Street and the downtown business district. They followed the truck in their car. In a deserted street, Chapman stepped from the moving bandit car to the running board of the truck, brandishing his revolver. Fifteen minutes later they drove away with five mail bags full of money, jewelry, and negotiable securities.

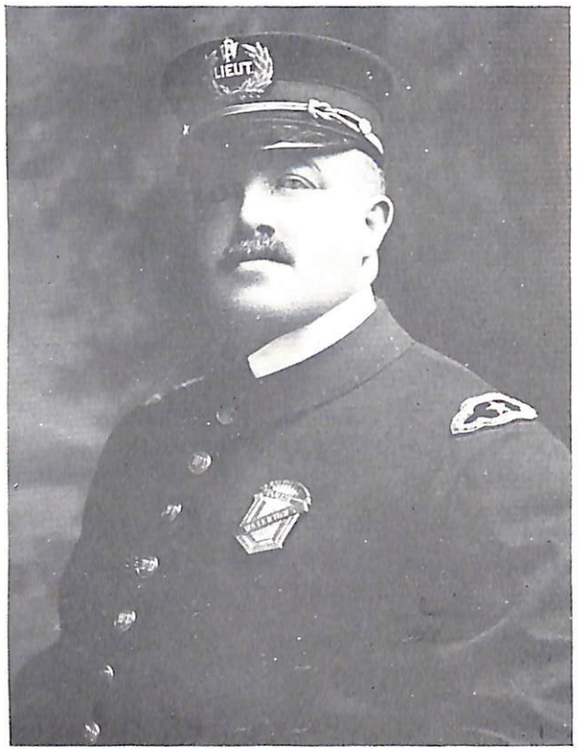
The bandits were caught, tried and sentenced, but Chapman and Anderson escaped. They lived high until Chapman was caught in a shooting scrape, and Anderson was killed by gunmen.

Another legendary character was Edward Fahy, "Eddie Fay" to the underworld, who got away with $75,000 in stamps from an underground vault in the Chicago postoffice, after tunneling through solid brick walls. Fahy had a confederate in the plant where the vaults were manufactured: he learned the combinations. The gang made several small-scale raids on postoffices throughout the country.

The Chicago office was the richest, and the toughest to crack. Stamps were kept in three underground vaults, but Fahy chose the seldom-opened, emergency safe for the job. Making his way through the labyrinth of tunnels under the postoffice, Fahy was almost stymied by a brick wall. He took a chance, hid out in the tunnels during the day, and broke down the wall next night.

The haul was $75,000 in stamps, which has never been recovered.

When $173,000 disappeared from a cage in the sub-treasury office in Chicago, a clerk was tried on a charge of stealing it, but was acquitted for lack of proof. The money never was recovered.



WILLIAM A. HOWARD

Lieutenant, Watertown Police Dept.

(Retired)

Chaplain

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

UNMASKING A SANTA CLAUS

In Chicago the other day the long-honored "Santa Claus of the County Jail" was unmasked and under the whiskers was found a fabulous scoundrel.

Appel was the name, Charles Louis Appel. Born in Germany in 1872, he died a fugitive in 1935 at Elyria, Ohio. His daughter won acclaim as movie star Lila Lee. Appel himself became widely known as owner and "perfect host" of North Side Turner Hall, rathskeller and music room of cherished memory.

Next door to the Bush Temple German Theater at Clark Street and Chicago Avenue, Turner Hall was located near the grimy old Cook County Jail, used decades later by Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur as the setting for their rambunctious play, "The Front Page," recently revived.

For years Charley Appel was an authentic Kris Kringle. Due to his generosity no doomed occupant of the deathhouse ever mounted the gallows unfortified by a satisfactory last meal.

Such legends mellow with age, and long after Santa Claus Appel vanished from the scene, nostalgic Chicagoans remembered only his benevolence, his guests, his little girl's beauty and talent, and his unsurpassed food and drinks.

They knew, of course, that Appel lammed out of town in October, 1923, just two jumps ahead of indictments charging $200,000 worth of larcenies, embezzlements and confidence games—practiced, alas, exclusively on his trusting friends. He was hunted 12 years; when found, he was dying.

Only one man survives who knew the depths of Santa Claus Appel's duplicity. Private Detective William C. Dannenberg, Chicago's Gentle Avenger, sat on the true story for years. Nobody likes to throw rocks at a Santa Claus.

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But when time had distorted the Appel legend to the ludicrous stage where a memorial tablet was seriously proposed, justice-loving Dannenberg decided to reveal some ugly facts, to wit:

Stubby, mustached Appel and his lawyer, Philip Sultan, visited Dannenberg on Sept. 15, 1920. Appel, they explained, had bought quantities of liquor with friends' cash, and stored it in a warehouse at 2622 North Clark Street.

At 2:30 that morning a watchman had admitted a uniformed policeman (later identified as Tom Slattery). The policeman provided a wedge for four hoodlums who rushed in, bound the watchman and hauled away the whiskey in cars.

Dannenberg took the case, teamed with Police Sgt. Jack Moffett. They found a witness who identified the cars. One belonged to Dion O'Banion, smooth little hoodlum slain four years later in his floral shop near Holy Name Cathedral, and the other to Charles (Buster) Brown, as tough as Dion and twice as crude.

Listening in to tapped wires into O'Banion's home, the detective heard Dion call Policeman Slattery and later urge various liquor outlets to buy his hijacked loot. Dannenberg and Slattery set about showing up the O'Banion gang.

At 2:30 a.m. on Sept. 22 Dion and Tom Shay drove out of the Loop. Two other hoodlums followed in a second car. Tailing them came the detectives. On the near Northwest Side the quarry halted and Dannenberg ducked into an alley.

The detectives deployed and when four hoodlums returned to their cars and fled, Dannenberg followed alone. The course led back to the west fringe of the Loop. Here, on Market Street, between Randolph and Washington, Dannenberg found he had driven into a carefully laid trap.

Too late to turn, Dannenberg saw the four men, guns drawn, standing by their parked cars. O'Banion shouted an order to halt. Dannenberg tried to argue edging forward toward a narrow lane between the cars.

O'Banion cursed and fired, narrowly missing. Desperately Dannenberg stepped on the gas. His car leaped through the gap as the

ALEXANDER MINNIS

Sergeant, Brookline Police Dept.

Sergeant-at-Arms

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

gangsters shot at him. The detective heard a rear tire ripped away; knew he couldn't speed to safety. The hoodlums' cars were close behind as he headed west across the river.

On gaining Canal Street, Dannenberg had a lifesaving inspiration. He made a U-turn, doubled east, dipped into the Washington Street trolley tunnel, banged along track ties under the river—and heard the gunmen driving westward. Emerging at Franklin Street, the detective knew he was safe.

Later that day Dannenberg had word of Charley Appel's double-dealing. On O'Banion's tapped wire, Appel told Dion:

"You'll ruin this show, kicking Dannenberg around! I hired him to make it look good: you know I have to go through with the motions. Lay off that guy!"

Dannenberg summoned Lawyer Sultan, also an innocent dupe.

"Here's the pitch," he said. "Appel has his own whiskey hijacked. His creditors swallow the yarn and wipe the slate clean. He and O'Banion peddle the stuff, split the profit and Appel owes nobody."

Dannenberg sent Appel an ultimatum: Get the liquor back to the Clark Street warehouse quietly—or Dannenberg would do it himself in the presence of police and reporters.

Appel, dreading exposure, got his own liquor back from his own hijackers. The detective let things ride, believing he had amply safeguarded the Appel creditors. But he underrated Appel.

Charley stalled his patient note-holders two more years, and when the jig was up he left town. He was reported later in Mexico, Canada, Germany; but he never returned to Chicago.

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CRAFTY JEWEL THIEVES AGAIN ACTIVE ON BIG SCALE

Since the beginning of history the lure of precious jewels has captured man's interest and driven him to acts of criminal violence, and recently, crafty jewel thieves again became active on a big scale in England.

Highway robbery, burglary and murder, plus the clever crookery of shrewd operators of nefarious get-rich-quick schemes have all centered around precious jewels and their possession. Some have been stolen for the mere love of possession, but most of the famous jewel thefts have been for gain, for precious stones, even in a partly destroyed form, retain a considerable proportion of their initial value.

Collectors, usually honest and law-abiding citizens, have contributed to the zest of jewel thieves, particularly the international operator. To add some unusual item to their collections, some of these collectors will offer high prices, and no questions asked.

As in the handling of all other commodities for sale, there are good times and bad for the jewel thieves. Times when money is plentiful, such as the present, offer their greatest opportunity. Hence the present increase in amazing jewel thefts, thefts on a scale that has put previous efforts along this line in the class of a 5-and-10 cent store business by comparison.

The recent pilfering of the Duke of Windsor's jewelry, a sizeable portion of the precious jewels and gems he had bestowed on Wally Simpson, for whom he abandoned a kingdom and an empire, is a fair example. Some have set the value of the stolen goods in this case at a cool million. The duke, probably not too anxious to have his beloved poor of England's scrubby tenements believe him such a spendthrift, has denied that anywhere near so great a value is the true one.

The value of the Hesse crown jewels, stolen by army personnel, ran to the amazing sum of a million and a half dollars.

GEORGE A. PARKER

Ex-Captain, State Police

Past President

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

But even this sizeable sum shrinks in comparison to the grab executed by a mysterious Japanese colonel who got away with 10 trunks and five crates of jewels, valued at $30,000,000, in the Netherlands East Indies during the occupation.

You have to go away back in history to match even the $1,500,000 figure. The value of the French crown jewels, stolen from the Garde Meuble in Paris in 1792 hit the impressive sum of at least a million and a half. The loot in that case included three of the most famous diamonds in the world, the Regent, the Sancy and the ill-fated Hope.

It took a gang of more than 30, working for six consecutive nights, to pull off that job, and the subsequent history of the stolen stones would make amazing reading, if it could be learned. The Regent was found 15 months later secreted in the timberwork of a waterfront garret. The Sancy reappeared in 1828, and now belongs to Lady Astor. The Hope diamond did not come into the market until 1830. It now belongs to Mrs. Evalyn Walsh MacLean of Washington.

Another great jewel grab was that of the Polish crown jewels, which was fairly contemporary with the French crown jewel theft, taking place probably at the time of the Prussian pillage of Cracow in 1794. While no actual value has ever been placed on the missing treasure, it would undoubtedly run into millions on present values.

The last official check-up of the crown jewels was in 1792, and there were recorded at that time five royal crowns and a vast amount of jewels, gems and precious ceremonial objects. These were wrapped in cotton and sealed in chests, and the doors of the treasure room of the ancient castle were also sealed. It was the last time that anyone ever saw the contents, except whoever executed the robbery.

It is believed, although officially denied, that the collection of royal treasure was carted off to Berlin. The Duke of Sussex, uncle of Queen Victoria, once related that while on a visit to the German capital he had the crown of the kings of Poland placed upon his head.

Felix Lubienski, a sheriff of Nahlo, insisted to his dying day that the diadem on a necklace he saw being worn by Queen Louisa of Germany was a part of the Polish crown treasure.

Getting down to modern big-scale jewelry thefts, and most of them are believed by police experts to be the work of carefully organized

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international gangs, skilled both in the crafty taking and the hazardous disposal of their loot, one of the most successful operations was that of the so-called "After Dinner Burglars" who ranged over Nassau and Westchester counties in New York, and in similarly wealthy areas of New Jersey, back in 1927.

This clever gang was credited with the theft of at least $2,000,000 in jewels and gems, and probably did even better. Their best-known haul was that of $120,000 of jewels taken from Jesse Livermore and his week-end guests, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Aronson. The police caught up with two members of the gang and recovered Livermore's watch, but that was all.

In this lush pre-depression era, pearls and jewels to the value of $683,000 were taken from Mrs. James Donahue, daughter of F. W. Woolworth of dime store fame, but were recovered. The Wanamakers also lost $200,000 in a single gem robbery.

Jewelers are natural victims of the organized jewel thieves, as the recent grab of some $80,000 in gems and jewels from a shop in Hot Springs, Ark., illustrates.

Earlier in the year, many stolen jewels and precious stones, taken in an amazing series of thefts in New York, were allegedly traced to Boston when several members of the gang were arrested.

Among the considerable treasure retrieved in this area, according to detectives, was $150,000 worth of gems taken from Cartiers, Inc., of Fifth Ave.; $40,000 worth of diamonds taken from Ross Pennel, Fifth Ave., and $15,000 in gems from Stall's on Madison Ave.

Boston's most notable contribution to the records is the robbery of Bernard D. Lessner, a New York jewelry salesman, who was followed to his room on the second floor of a hotel, where he was pushed inside, gagged, handcuffed and trussed with wire. The thieves then made off with his sample case of diamonds and diamond-set wedding rings, to the value of $125,000. That was in 1931. Lessner was the salesman for the noted firm of B. F. Hirsch, Inc., Maiden Lane, N. Y.

Another New York jewelry salesman, Jacques H. Leff, employed by Hirsch & Leff, was held up that same year in his automobile, in broad delight, on Beacon Street in Newton, and separated from set and loose diamonds and jewelry valued at more than $100,000.

LOUIS B. HEATON
Captain, Melrose Police Dept.
(Retired)

Past President
Police Square Club of Massachusetts

What happens to stolen jewels is almost as much a mystery as how thiefs get away with such daring robberies. Only the generally accepted police belief in great international gangs, carefully organized and skillfully operated, seems to provide an acceptable answer. For stolen jewels are what is known as "hot," and their disposal for profit comes under the classification of skilled professional crime.

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HANDKERCHIEF WAVED BY GIRL COST MAN HIS LIFE IN FAMOUS BAY STATE MURDER

Years ago the dropping of a handkerchief by a young lady, whether deliberate or not, often led to a romance.

On March 31, 1904, on an unusually warm, spring-like day, Miss Mabel Walker waved a handkerchief at a total stranger, Charles Tucker, and brought about not only an "affair" but also some dire consequences for the young man.

If doltish, 24-year-old "Tommy Tucker," as he was known by his friends, had resisted Miss Walker's feminine appeal and the prospect of a rendezvous on that exhilarating morning, he probably never would have been linked with the fatal stabbing of another Mabel, a Miss Mabel Page.

In the early afternoon of that ecstatic March day, Edward Page returned to his Weston, Mass., home after an absence of several hours to find his spinster daughter, Mabel, in her room, murdered. She was on the floor, her neck slit, undoubtedly by a knife.

MYSTERIOUS NOTES

Downstairs Page found a note written by his daughter. It read, "Have just heard that Harold (Mabel Page's brother) is hurt and at the Massachusetts Hospital. Have gone in 12 o'clock . . ."

After sending for a doctor, Page called Harold, employed at the nearby Boston Railway Station, and learned that absolutely nothing had happened to his son that day.

The doctor, meanwhile, had found other knife wounds in Mabel's body—one in her breast and another, significantly, in her back, which dismissed the possibility of suicide.

LAWRENCE M. DEWAR

Jail Keeper, Dedham

Past President and Board of Directors

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

Also, another note had been found—this time on the floor of Mabel's room. Obviously placed there to attract attention, the paper read: "C. L. Morton, Charlestown, Mass." The handwriting belonged to none in the family.

A search revealed that about $13 had been stolen from Mabel's purse, which the Page housekeeper had seen her put into a table drawer downstairs that morning, before the latter had left for the city (Boston) to shop.

Police began questioning all persons known to have been in the vicinity of Weston the day of the murder, but after four days, were no nearer to the solution of the crime.

Finally Tucker, a resident of Auburndale, a few miles from Weston, was called for an interview. He had been seen a little past noon on the fatal day walking near the Weston bridge, once by himself and later with a friend named Bourne. But apparently Tucker had a perfect alibi.

Tucker declared that on the morning of the murder he had helped mow the lawn of his parents' home. After lunch he had strolled down to the bridge at Weston but then immediately had turned back, and produced witnesses who had seen him. As he was about to re-enter his home, he had met Bourne. They decided to return to the bridge.

INVITED TO RIDE

Bourne corroborated Tucker's statements that there they had met a young man, Arthur Woodward driving a wagon. Seated beside Woodward had been an attractive girl, Mabel Walker, who had waved to Tucker. He and Bourne, invited to ride with them on the wagon, saw no reason why they shouldn't accept—after all, the girl was pretty.

Tucker mentioned that he had sat next to Mabel, with Woodward on the other side. Bourne went to the back of the wagon. After a short conversation with Mabel, Tucker was for leaving his friend behind on the wagon in favor of a walk alone with her. Mabel agreed to this and they both got off the wagon. According to Tucker, they soon parted and he went home.

Bourne backed up Tucker's assertions.

Police, satisfied with Tucker's story, allowed him to leave.

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The Boston Post, however, carried a story to the effect that Tucker had been questioned by the police, and printed his photograph. This story was read by Woodward, the driver of the wagon, who showed the story and picture to his father—and something else, a sheath for a hunting knife!

Woodward, finding the sheath on the wagon after Tucker and Mabel Walker had left him, had forgotten about it—until now. The sheath was about five inches long.

Woodward's father promptly notified the Weston police.

Tucker again was removed to the police station and asked whether he possessed the sheath for a knife. This he denied.

A patrolman, who had been going through Tucker's coat, then showed "Tommy" the sheath Woodward had found and asked if it belonged to him. Tucker, unnerved, replied in the affirmative, but fearing to be caught in a lie, then uttered another lie.

He told police that a few days after hearing about the murder and realizing that he might be questioned, he had placed the sheath in the coat to hide it. Evidently he had feared that his room might be searched and that the sheath might be found there. This sheath, however, had been in Woodward's pocket ever since the wagon ride.

Tucker refused to admit that he had ever had a hunting knife except one which had been lost in a river a few years ago.

Tucker, whose carelessness in leaving the sheath behind in the wagon already had gotten him into very deep water, now got even deeper. But this time his lack of observation was to blame.

BLOOD-STAINED KNIFE

When police had shown him the sheath and asked if it were his, Tucker had failed to notice that in one corner of it were teeth marks. Therefore, when police wanted to have a dentist make a cast of his teeth, Tucker agreed. The impression in the cast was similar to the teeth marks on the sheath.

All this time the police were going through Tucker's house. In a coat pocket they found a blood-stained knife, broken into pieces. Po-

GEORGE M. FISH

Patrolman, Boston Police Dept.

(Retired)

Past President

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

lice estimated that the original knife had been five inches long, which would have fitted perfectly into the sheath.

Tucker, shown the blade, now readily agreed that it belonged to him, but again was stupid enough to think he could lie his way out of his predicament. His latest excuse was that he attempted to destroy it when he became aware that he might be suspected of the murder.

But Tucker could not explain how a pin, identified by the Page housekeeper to be that of the dead woman's, also was found in his coat pocket, except to say that it belonged to him.

He was arrested.

At the trial, despite all the evidence accumulated against Tucker, his attorneys maintained that no one had seen him anywhere in the immediate neighborhood of the Page home on the day of the murder; produced witnesses verifying the accused's statements about his whereabouts on March 31, and tried to show that the pin was Tucker's, and that others had seen him wear it prior to the fateful day.

The defense challenged the State to recapitulate the events of March 31 so as to convince the jury to send this "youth" to an early death.

The prosecution did not hesitate to take up the challenge. It replied that Tucker, unemployed and needing money, had as his motive —robbery. It was proved that twice before he had been at the Page home, about an hour's walk from his own house, and knew what he had to contend with in a planned rifling of the home.

THEORY OF KILLING

The State suggested that Tucker, after returning to his home, following his "walk" with Mabel Walker, had gone almost immediately to the Page home. Upon admission there by Mabel Page, he had deliberately given her the false story about her brother in order to get her out of the house. This explained her note: "Have just heard that Harold is hurt."

He may have stayed below, having volunteered to take her to the hospital, while she went upstairs to dress. Descending a few minutes later, Mabel may have found Tucker going through her purse, and in

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the ensuing excitement, he may have killed her to prevent his arrest for theft.

In support of this, the State demonstrated that the murder had been committed downstairs, where Tucker had been, and not in her room, where the body was found by her father. It proved this by showing that the crimson fibres of a straw rug, found in the overskirt of the dead woman, were from downstairs.

As for the writing bearing the words, "C. L. Morton, Charlestown, Mass.," the State contended that Tucker had written the note to mislead the police. It introduced handwriting experts who testified that the note was his.

When the defense likewise produced experts who were just as adamant that the writing was not his, the prosecution exhibited a post card, found on Tucker's person, on which he had scribbled several names, including "Morton" and "Charlestown." Finally, it placed on the stand J. D. Morton, who once had been employed in the same establishment as Tucker. The inference was that unimaginative Charles Tucker had decided to use his name.

After hearing all this, the jury probably had already made up its mind that Tucker was guilty. His refusal to testify in his own behalf made conviction, in this case, certain.

Tucker, sentenced to die in the electric chair, affirmed his innocence up until the last week of his scheduled execution. But a few minutes before he was strapped to the chair, he read a written statement, neither admitting guilt nor protesting innocence.

WARREN H. LIESE

Sergeant, Boston Police Dept.

(Retired)

Past President

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

THE '11-12-13' MYSTERY

Did Emily Randolph Try to Convey a Secret Message to the Man She Loved Before She Killed Herself?

"11—12—13."

What do those cryptic numbers mean?

Do they hold the key to the mystery of lovely Emily Laffoon Randolph's death by her own hand?

That is the question that has puzzled Cincinnati society ever since that chill morning last May when the beautiful young matron's lifeless body was found by her gardener, crumpled on the front seat of her car in the garage beneath her spacious home. She had been dead for hours, a victim of carbon monoxide poisoning.

On the steps of a near-by ladder she had left two notes. Both were written in her flourishing, finishing school hand on elaborate stationery bearing a proud coat-of-arms whose motto reads "Quad Audis Tace." or "Whatever you hear, be silent."

One note, addressed to her husband, said only: "Dear John, honestly it doesn't mean I didn't love you—I just loved Cookie more." It was signed "Em," and on the back of the envelope, underscored three times, was the request: "Please send the J. L. the metal file and $50." The J. L. apparently was the Junior League, of which Mrs. Randolph was a local director, and to whose many charitable projects she devoted much of her time and effort.

The other note, addressed to Werk Cook, a recently divorced man-about-town, said: "Darling, don't forget I said I would love you forever and I did. All my love, always. Em."

At the bottom of the page were the numerals 11—12—13.

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What significance did they have in the drama that had such a tragic ending for Emily Randolph, her husband John, president of a cutlery company, and her small son and daughter?

Werk Cook, the man to whom the note was addressed, is perhaps the only person who can answer that question. Since he hasn't, either because of chivalry or love, or because he doesn't know, all Cincinnati wonders.

Did Emily Randolph die because she would not desert her family, yet could no longer go on without the man to whom she was so overwhelmingly attracted?

Or did she take her own life because she learned that man no longer cared for her?

Her friends, shocked by the tragedy, admit they had long been afraid that "something was going to happen."

For the cliff-dwellers, those occupants of the opulent estates that stud the heights above the city, had for some time been masterminding the outcome of the triangular friendship of Emily Randolph, her husband John and the handsome Werk Cook, ex-Navy officer whose forebears had founded a big industry.

Some of the more conservative members of the country club set to which all three belonged for months had shaken their heads over the close association of the recently divorced Cook and the beautiful young married woman.

But those who had known Emily Laffoon Randolph from childhood scoffed at such fears. They cited her family background, the fact she was the daughter of the late Polk Laffoon, Kentucky utilities magnate, niece of the late Ruby Laffoon, former Governor of the state. They cited her conventional upbringing, the fact she had gone to the "right" schools, was an active member of the Junior League in her home town and served on various committees for civic improvement.

They remembered her marriage to John Randolph in 1938 had been a real love match. They pointed to her two beautiful children, a daughter of eight and son of five.

But what they didn't know was that Emily Randolph had become enmeshed in a love from which she saw only one escape. They didn't

CLYDE R. SMITH

Patrolman, Beverly Police Dept.

Past President

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

know her love for another man had reached a point where she left endearing notes from him on her desk, without any effort to conceal them from her husband.

They didn't know of the frequent quarrels she had with her husband while her unsuspecting children slept peacefully upstairs.

Estimating her surface character they might have thought her high ideals, her level-headedness and clear-sightedness would carry her past the emotional shoals which threatened her. But they didn't know that even such a woman often is all too vulnerable to dreams, that she could crack under the surge of overwhelming emotions.

No one will ever know the final small word or deed that precipitated her time for decision.

But on the last evening of her life Emily Randolph dressed carefully, painted a gallant smile on her lips and went to a party at the country club with her husband. Leaving early, they stopped at a biergarten and returned home by 11 o'clock.

There was a final quarrel. John Randolph has never divulged its reason. While he was preparing for bed she left him with the announcement that she was going to start packing for their forthcoming trip to Florida.

Emily Randolph did not pack that night. She needed no luggage for the lonely trip she was contemplating.

Instead she wrote the two notes which were her final legacy.

On the second note, to Werk Cook, were the cryptic numerals "11—12—13."

Cincinnati still wonders what that message meant.

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SWINDLERS' HARVEST

Get-Rich-Quick Con Men

Swindlers all over the country are eagerly reaping a rich harvest. The crop is ripe—$180,000,000,000 in savings or bonds, accumulated during the war years by thrifty Americans. These figures are from the U. S. Treasury Department. Racket-busting Better Business Bureaus have found 800 methods now being used by swindlers, who fall into four general classifications—doorbell gyppers, business opportunity confidence men, phony stock promoters and loan sharks. In this article, the first of a series of four, The American Weekly exposes the tricks of the con men.

"Buy a one-third partnership in a going concern for $2,500; you will hold a position paying $50 a week."

Joe Doaks, a discharged veteran, was looking for such an opportunity as he saw in this ad. He was just what John P. Crook & Co. were looking for. Joe went to the richly furnished office which appeared to be operating a real estate business. Two attractive secretaries pounded away at typewriters. He was graciously, though condescendingly, received by the promoter.

"We are on the threshold of making $100,000." Joe was told. "Real estate is booming."

Joe produced $2,500 and received a memorandum of partnership.

"It will be a few days before you are needed here at the office but you are on the payroll now. We'll let you know when to come."

Joe waited, then investigated. He learned the company was a fake, doing no business. The secretaries were "window dressing." When Joe threatened to inform the police, the crook offered to buy back the partnership. Joe accepted an IOU for his $2,500. Three days later the crook fled. He had rented the furnished office for 30 days.

CHARLES M. McNEILL

Patrolman, Boston Police Dept.

(Retired)

Past President and Board of Directors

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

According to Government estimates, there are between three and four million ex-service men who want to go into business for themselves. These and millions of civilians with war savings to invest swell the ranks from which get-rich-quick con men are recruiting their victims.

One class of con men developed a sympathy trap out of the furniture shortage. They work through a "stuffed flat" and "weeping widow."

A crook scrapes an acquaintance with his victim and tells about a young widow who must sell her furniture because she is forced out of her apartment. It "will be sold at great sacrifice."

The victim looks over the furniture, usually is impressed by the widow's tears and the good bargain he is getting.

"I'd be grateful if I could sell quickly," she sobs.

When it is delivered he finds a switch has been made and he has some cheap old stuff of similar design not worth half the price he has paid. The buyer can do nothing because he failed to get a list and description of the furniture at the time he paid. He has no case and loses his money.

On the West Coast a promoter was nabbed in a prefabricated house swindle. He got his victims to put from $200 to $1,000 for the first unit in a big new development with the promise that it would be used as a demonstration house and the buyer would get a salary and commission on all sales. When the inquiries got hot, as no houses were produced, the promoter fled.

"Modernization racketeers" have worked in several large cities. In Pittsburgh, agents for disreputable firms arranged terms with home-owners for remodeling operations under agreement the finished house was to serve as a model home for prospects. The home-owners were to pay nothing and receive commissions on other contracts obtained within a certain radius of their houses.

In the process, home-owners signed contracts which were in reality promissory notes. The notes then were negotiated to third parties. Later the home-owners received demands for payment and were forced to make good.

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RESTAURANTS — FOUNTAINS

The National Better Business Bureau learned of a St. Louis veteran who bought a restaurant through a pseudo broker. The place was jammed, doing a rushing business when the veteran visited it with the broker. Customers stood in line. The veteran took over two days later after he had paid $1,800. His first day's business totaled five hamburgers and 12 cups of coffee.

One of his customers was a derelict who came in daily for coffee. The vet questioned him about the fall off in trade. The derelict grinned.

"Don't you know yet? You've been rigged. All of us here the day you bought got a free meal and 50 cents for coming in."

One swindle which involves "the menu switch" has taken scores of restaurant investment purchasers.

The person who has decided to go into business for himself looks over a restaurant. The salesman shows him a list of phony prices—considerably higher than those regularly charged. The list often is prepared with great care. Menus showing prices are soiled to give them a realistic look.

The victim, convinced that he has a great money maker at hand with those prices, buys. He soon finds himself in trouble with his customers and realizes to his sorrow his loss.

A woman put a $700 deposit on a hotel news-stand offered at $3,000 with the understanding that, if the sales volume for the next 30 days was not as represented, the money would be refunded. Investigation disclosed that the bulk of the purchases had been made by friends and relatives.

Discharged after three years in the Pacific, an ex-Marine saw an ad "Special Employment Service for Veterans. Good jobs, good salaries—hours 8 A.M. to 6 P.M., week days. B— Employment Agency." The vet applied and the agent, in a small meagerly furnished office, told him he had a job for him in a St. Louis garage as head mechanic. The applicant had been a truck driver before the war and this looked to him like a job he could handle.

"Of course," said the agent, "you'll have to post a small cash bond. It's routine, you know—just a sign of your intentions to follow through." The ex-Marine forked over the $50—$25 was to be refunded at the end

JAMES TANISH

Patrolman, Malden Police Dept.

Past President

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

of the first week's work. He left his address and went home to await a call. He waited two weeks. When he went back to the office, he found it empty. The agent had worked his racket for a few weeks and then skipped.

Confidence men are no respecters of person or locality in this day of cash-on-hand. Recently the movies furnished background for a daring swindler. A "short dark-haired man" took $20,000 from the credulous in Washington, D. C. He registered at a prominent hotel and announced he was a representative of a Hollywood company which was going to produce a picture in the capital called "Capital Capers."

He talked in familiar terms about several prominent stars and said they had been signed up to play the leads. He offered to let a few in on the ground floor. He cashed checks, borrowed right and left and even hired 20 girls from a current stage production to play in the picture.

He staged a gala night club party at which the famous stars were to appear. A senator and army general were guests. No stars showed up.

"Their plane was grounded," he explained. But he saw stirrings of suspicion. Next day when shooting the picture was to begin, no players were there. The con man wasn't either.

Many of the losses, and often heartaches could have been prevented and the Better Business Bureaus advance this warning—Before You Invest—Investigate. Their offices are in 86 major cities and they are engaged in a drive to halt this mass raid on the people's savings. They will advise on any proposition in which the investor is in doubt. Local veterans organizations, too, are usually equipped to give sound counsel. Or any person can obtain advice from his own lawyer or banker.

Gold mine promoters operating from Canada take $1,000,000 a week from investors in the United States. Real gold discoveries in the north, widely publicized, have paved the way for the swindle.

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THE TRIGGER-FINGER CLUE

BY J. EDGAR HOOVER
Director, The Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Some of the greatest crime mysteries are cleared up by the smallest clues, not only in fiction but in life. Law enforcement officers regard as the classic case of criminal identification the almost indecipherable trace that solved the notorious bank murders in Lamar, Colo.

At 1:10 p.m. on May 23, 1928, four men marched through the doorway of the First National Bank of Lamar. Most of the clerks were at lunch and behind the pay window stood the bank president, A. Newton Parrish. As the intruders pulled out their guns Parrish flipped a revolver from an open drawer and fired. Blood spurted from one robber's face. The banker's son jumped to his father's side: instantly a volley of gunfire killed both of them.

The robbers lifted an armful of loot—about $25,000 in cash and negotiable securities—grabbed a cashier and a teller as hostages and fled to their waiting car.

A few miles out of town the hysterical teller was thrown out into the road. Five minutes later he was found by Sheriff L. E. Alderman, driving in pursuit. The teller was so overcome he could not stammer a word.

The sheriff sped on with his aide. Time and again he had to halt at crossroads and ask which way the fugitives turned. Then suddenly he came upon them, less than 300 yards away. The sheriff had only one revolver with him. The bandits opened fire, putting two of the sheriff's cylinders out of commission. Then they roared off—and apparently vanished.

Not until long afterward did we learn what had happened. Doubling swiftly on their tracks, the bandits hid in a ranch house owned by one of them. That night, although the wounded man was delirious, the others gave a party for their friends.

The cashier hostage lay in the car bound and gagged during the all-night party and the next morning, his fate still undecided.

HERBERT B. LUNDY

Patrolman, Boston Police Dept.

(Retired)

Past President and Councillor for Federation

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

When the carousers awoke, the wounded robber was in agony, gangrene threatening. At dusk of the second night, Dr. W. W. Weininger was aroused at his home. He was told there had been a tractor accident and a woman hurt and asked to follow a car to a farm near the state highway. Dr. Weininger was taken into the house, a revolver pointed at him, and he was ordered to treat the stricken robber. His work done, he was asked:

"Will this man get well?"

"If you continue the treatment I showed you, yes."

"Are you certain?"

"Yes!"

The next instant the physician's arms were pinioned behind him. They drove him to the edge of a ravine and despite his pleas for mercy shot him through the head. The desperados then laid their shoulders against his car and pushed it into the gulch.

And it was now too late for the murderers to undo one tiny mistake —they did not know they had left us an almost invisible clue.

Next they took the cashier to a deserted shack on the prairie and riddled his body with bullets. Four murders in the Lamar bank robbery —and now the culprits disbanded, and singly and doubly hitchhiked to distant points.

It looked like a perfect crime!

But a small-town policeman found the tiny winning clue. R. S. Terwilliger, of the Garden City, Kansas, police, went to the bottom of the ravine when the wreckage of the car was found. It was a professional job, all right. The metal surface of the car had been polished clean of fingerprints. But Terwilliger was a technician trained to take nothing for granted. Every square inch of exposed surface was tested until almost at the end of the day he came upon a faint smudge—left by somebody's trigger finger!

The mark was on the outside of the glass in the rear right door. Taking the glass to his tiny laboratory, Terwilliger, with dusting powder and a strip of tape, "lifted" the latent print; then photographed it two and a half times natural size. Soon the enlargements reached our Identification Division.

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But the cold-blooded ferocity of the killings stirred me to deep indignation. Calling in all our fingerprint men, I said:

"Fix the details of this print in mind so clearly that if any of us ever runs across it again he will know it!"

Meanwhile, almost every policeman in the United States was looking for the fugitives. Soon, thanks to descriptions supplied by witnesses, arrests were made. Four men were picked up in various parts of the country and the trial was set for September 17, 1929.

All four protested innocence, but since 60 citizens volunteered to identify them, hanging was a foregone conclusion.

Yet certain officials were not satisfied with those identifications. One bandit had been wounded; where was his scar? Not on any of the accused. Excited citizens explained that away by a theory of beauty surgery. But that smudged fingerprint—did it match the forefinger of any of the defendants? It did not. Yet an army of good citizens swore they recognized the accused men; the print must have been made by somebody unconnected with the crime.

Then came a break. The sheriff of Stockton, Calif., picked up a man and charged him with a train robbery. They fingerprinted him and finally had to let him go, but a month later his record card appeared on the desk of Albert B. Ground, in our Washington headquarters.

On this day, Ground had already handled about 2000 fingerprint cards. It was a year since I had urged our men to memorize that solitary smudge from the murder car. Yet Ground's first glance at this California record joggled his memory. An immediate search showed him that the man was Jake Fleagle, who had served a term in the Oklahoma State Penitentiary for robbery. Still Ground was not satisfied. There was something about the print of that trigger finger. Then it came to him. Hastening to a special cabinet Ground pulled out that year-old smudge. Jake Fleagle had touched that death car!

Within a few hours police in Kansas and Colorado were jumping into action. Raiding the ranch, a few miles outside of Lamar, they arrested Jake, Sr., and two of his brood—but not little Lucky Jake nor his brother Ralph, who, the police were now sure, were the criminals. Mail found on the place strengthened the suspicion, as did the finding

BURTON A. MURRAY

Captain, Metropolitan District Police

(Retired)

Past President and Councillor for Federation

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

of stores of ammunition of the same caliber as bullets fired in the gun battle at the bank.

Then came another break. While the prisoners were being questioned, a letter arrived from the missing Ralph, asking his Pa for several thousand dollars to be mailed to him, in care of General Delivery at Kankakee, Ill.

When Ralph Fleagle came to the Kankakee Post Office, he was seized and taken back to Colorado.

"If I confess," he bargained, "will you promise not to hang me?"

The district attorney replied: "We will not ask the death penalty for you."

Ralph Fleagle named two accomplices, Howard L. Royston and George J. Abshier, and within a short time they were caught. Agreeing with Ralph, they insisted that Lucky Jake Fleagle was the planner and the killer.

But they did not know where he was hiding. Long afterward, we learned that he had fled to a hide-out in the Ozarks. Had Lucky Jake quietly remained there he might be alive today.

But suddenly Jake began to write letters to the Colorado police, warning them if his brother and pals were hanged, he would visit unspeakable vengeance. He hinted that, if he were guaranteed immunity from the rope, he might make a deal.

In the midst of this correspondence, Fleagle's three henchmen were found guilty. As promised, the district attorney, while asking death for the others, did not suggest the extreme penalty for Ralph. However, the jury recommended that all be hanged, and so they were.

But it seemed as if the chase for the man who had made the trigger fingerprint had ended in a back alley. Then one morning, according to one version that was made public, a small ad appeared in the personal column of the Wichita *Daily Eagle*, expressing the yearning of the sponsor to get in touch with his old buddy "Jake."

In his mountain hideaway, Jake Fleagle saw the ad. It was signed simply "Pinky." Jake knew Pinky as well as one crook ever knows another, but he did not suspect that police had prevailed upon Pinky to become a Judas-goat to trap his old side-kick.

Soon the old friends were in regular correspondence. Carefully they began to plan to rob a bank at Yellville, Ark., arranging a rendezvous for October 14, 1930.

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It all happened quickly. On a whistle-stop railroad platform at Bransom, Mo., Fleagle waited to board a train and ride to Hollister where Pinky would be waiting.

He did not dream, of course, that five passengers on that approaching train were law officers who expected to catch up with him at Hollister. But neither did the police dream that Lucky Jake would board the train at this flag stop. Taken by surprise, they saw him swaggering down the aisle of the day coach.

"Hands up!" they shouted.

Fleagle reached for his .38's. The officers' guns blazed. In another second Fleagle lay mortally wounded on the floor of the lurching coach.

Naturally the case against the four men originally accused had long ago been dropped. I wish I could tell you that they walked out of prison, free men with a good conscience. But, alas, that is not the fact. Again the science of fingerprinting disclosed the truth—all were professional bank robbers. To expiate other crimes they were imprisoned for long terms.

Glittering rewards had been offered in the case. At their peak, they totaled nearly $60,000. But, as months passed, many were withdrawn, and when Jake Fleagle died, only $4,000 remained. There was some public insistence that this be paid to Ground, our fingerprint expert, but he was the first to point out that no FBI man gets any award beyond his salary—except the satisfactions that belong to the job.

JOHN M. ANDERSON

Deputy Superintendent, Boston Police Dept.

(Retired)

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY IN PREVENTING JUVENILE NEGLECT

By MARGARET HICKEY

Editor, Public Affairs Department

Juvenile delinquency can happen in the best of families. The "bad boy" or "bad girl" comes from the right side of town almost as often as from the wrong side of the tracks. Approximately one half of the children in America's better-off families, according to reliable statistics, grow up in homes lacking in emotional stability and plain "horse sense" about children's needs. Death, divorce, illness, constant moving—these are the factors which implant the germs of juvenile delinquency in any family.

Society has a tendency to point the accusing finger at the parents. "It's all the parents' fault—let them go and learn better," society says.

In San Francisco, a scheme to educate the parents has been in operation since May, 1943. This "school for delinquent parents" is administered by the public schools. After its first three months of existence, the school had prescribed attendance by parents referred from the juvenile court. Yet a careful sampling survey over a period of four months at the Parent Guidance Center revealed no "spectacular successes." Punishing the parents by sending them to school is not a complete solution for juvenile delinquency. The survey also failed to prove that any adjustment in individual cases was due to the parents' attendance at the center.

In an enlightening report on this project, the National Probation Association points out that special schools for parents of delinquent children may become community liabilities. It often proves humiliating for parents to be directed to the center. Further, parents of "bad children" may or may not themselves be inadequate, ignorant or delinquent. The development of a real program of education for successful parenthood should be made available and appealing to all. Attract the good with the bad parents, says the association, and the stigma of attendance will be removed.

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But educating the parents is not enough. The community as well must be made aware of its danger spots for the breeding of delinquency. Such an attempt to reach community-wide has been made in Chicago by the Association of Family Living. They co-operate with church groups. P.T.A.'s. settlement houses and other community organizations. Last year the association worked with a total of 750 groups. reaching 13,823 parents. They try to interpret the ways and needs of children in the years of growing up. Workers counsel parents collectively, and offer individual interviews for a small fee. The staff offers leadership in planning child-guidance courses, programs in schools on premarriage education. counseling for the mature person. and further research.

Still another plan directed at once to parents and community has been followed by the New York State Youth Commission. Their program. "Prevention in Action." focuses attention upon the needs of "vulnerable children." They have worked through the schools first. where tests have been given by school personnel to over 5000 children from the third to the eighth grades. inclusive. in ten communities. Special consideration is given the child who is either markedly above or below average in intelligence. or handicapped by some physical or health defect.

The keystone of the plan is the Youth Bureau. set up in individual communities and locally sponsored by the several agencies of home. school. church. welfare. health and recreation. Juvenile delinquency thus assumes a major role in the municipality rather than a minor one handled by welfare or law-enforcement agencies. To the Youth Bureau come disturbed parents. school authorities. interested citizens. Recreation is often used as a pleasant foil for the necessary educational and psychological counseling youth needs. Each center has a full-time staff and a representative advisory committee of citizens.

Strengthen the home. correct early tendencies toward delinquency and create a healthy community environment. advises the commission. Like the old proverb. a stitch in time in the character-building of a child may save nine in the future.

Is the behavior of your neighbor's child your business? It may very well be. You and I create the sort of community our neighbors' children live and grow in. The bad child of today is the delinquent parent of tomorrow. Let's inoculate our communities against the disease before it becomes epidemic.

LEROY L. PHINNEY
Chief, Whitman Police Dept.
Police Square Club of Massachusetts

FIGHTING CRIME WITH THE BIBLE

"Poison for Possessions" is the striking title which the Reverend Clifford Scorrer, of St. Michael's Church, Bristol, England, chose for a recent Sunday morning sermon.

The church was packed with parishioners eager to hear another of the 26-year-old curate's unique series of "Bible thrillers."

A few weeks previously, Mr. Scorrer had startled the congregation by declaring that the crime wave sweeping Britain called for drastic church action.

"If we are to stamp out sin," he said, "we must preach more than ordinary sermons: we must bring a touch of realism into our services, and show from the Bible that crime does not pay."

So the parson proceeded to dramatize Scriptural homicides. With glowing eloquence, he made the ancient stories seem as new and current as today's headlines, throbbing with life and passion.

Word quickly spread of the electrifying quality of his sermons. Backsliders hurried to church again after long lapses.

"Poison for Possessions" told the story of Jezebel, wicked wife of Israel's King Ahab. When their neighbor Naboth refused to sell his vineyard to the king, Jezebel said to her husband, "I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth."

She forged letters in Ahab's name directing the elders to "set Naboth high among the people."

When this was done, she sent two sons of Belial to bear witness against Naboth that he had blasphemed God and the King.

"Then they carried him (Naboth) forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died."

Jezebel was horribly punished for this crime. Flung out of a palace window, she was trampled to death by Jehu's horse and her body was eaten by dogs.

"Murder for Marriage" was another of the curate's sermons. It recalled how King David's burning love for Bathsheba grew so strong

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upon him that he sent her husband Uriah into the front line of battle to be killed.

David's subsequent life proved, said the preacher, that punishment always follows lust of the flesh.

"The Tent Pin Murder" related the slaying of Sisera by Jael, wife of Heber. Promising Sisera protection against his enemy, she lured him into her tent and bade his rest unafraid. As he slept trustfully, she slew him with a tent peg, driven into his temple.

Jael's act, the clergyman explained, demonstrates that faith in human nature, as well as the body, can be killed.

On another Sunday, Mr. Scorrer drew on the book of Exodus to prove that murder will out. He cited the slaying of an Egyptian by Moses, infuriated because the man had struck a Hebrew. Moses believed his act was unknown, but Pharaoh heard of it and Moses was forced to flee to Midian.

The stir caused by the sermons increased as the weeks went on. But, while the pews were packed and people stood to hear them, many Bristolians protested against the innovation. "Unorthodox," "inelegant," "contrary to church tradition," were some of the charges.

Since the objectors threatened trouble, Mr. Scorrer's vicar—though he had approved of the series in advance—suggested it be discontinued.

So now, Mr. Scorrer preaches "ordinary" sermons, agreeable to conservatives. But hundreds of less influential worshipers wish he would resume those gripping "Bible thrillers."

JAMES E. O'TOOLE

Chief, Bourne Police Dept.

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

INQUIRING REPORTER

A few miles outside New York City, in the darkness of a secluded woodland path called Black Shirt Lane, Long Island, a youth and a girl sat in a parked car at the side of the road, beyond the moonlight.

It was May 5, 1931, and the boy was apple-cheeked Francis Crowley, wanted for murder. The girl was flighty Helen Walsh, his moll.

What was said then, and what happened a moment afterward, became known later to many people, for Helen Walsh, sallow and overpainted, told it on a witness stand.

At the time the words and the event seemed only the personal concern of a boy who had boasted he was a "cop hater" and his girl, who admired automatics in armpit holsters.

"You going to stick with me?" Crowley asked.

"I am if you ditch the other one. You've got to walk out on Billie Dunne."

"O. K.," Crowley said. "I'll brush her off."

He put his arms around Helen, then, and she lay her head on his shoulder, and suddenly around a bend in the road the headlights of another car picked them out.

"Cops!" Helen cried.

"Sure! Shut up!" Crowley said.

The car stopped beside them. A policeman opened their door. "Take off your hat," the policeman said to Crowley. "What are you doing?"

Helen scrambled over the seat and fell on the floor at the back. The apple-cheeked boy, 19, for years a braggart and a hoodlum and an outcast, didn't reply. He reached for his armpit guns and began to fire.

"I looked up and saw the cop's face for a second, and it was terrible," Helen said afterward. That was when Crowley was shooting him to death—Patrolman Frederick Hirsch.

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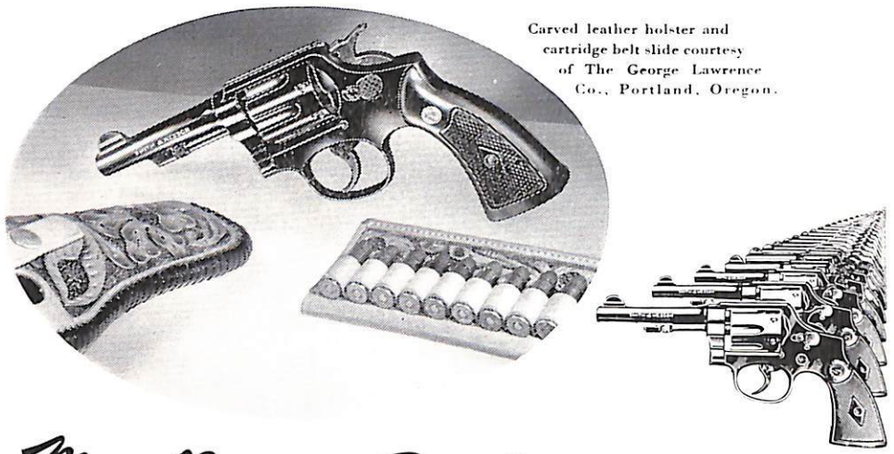

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A moment later, Crowley had his sedan swerving around the police car and speeding out of Black Shirt Lane as Hirsch's partner, Patrolman Peter Yodice, emptied his pistol.

Not only a cop hater but an enemy of nearly everyone, Crowley with Helen Walsh in a stolen machine drove swiftly through the May moonlight into the outskirts of New York.

The slain policeman's partner gave the alarm. He had recognized the youth as a "wanted" fugitive.

Now, besides being sought for complicity in the murder of a taxi dance girl, Virginia Brannen, he was sought as Hirsch's killer, and the man hunt became one of the greatest in New York's history.

Crowley was only a kid, but he had carried out so many holdups and he was so crazed by the power of an automatic in his hand, that the warning to beware of him was spread across the city.

The police believed that when they did find him he would be with Rudolph Duringer, whom they were seeking, along with Crowley, for the murder of Duringer's girl, Virginia Brannen.

The Journal-American staff went to work. Jeanette Smits, a reporter, got the first tip. She learned that a girl named Billie Dunne had once been Crowley's friend. Hard-bitten Joe O'Connor, veteran police reporter, found Billie in a Harlem dance hall.

"Listen, Mr. O'Connor," she said, "I'm no stool but I don't mind telling you where Crowley is hiding out. The rat!"

She leaned closer to the reporter: "He's sitting tight in my apartment right now. Can you beat that for nerve? He brought the Walsh kid there and he said to me, 'Billie, meet my new sweetie. You're through.' "

Billie Dunne, jilted and bitter, gave O'Connor the whole story of her falling-out with the youth who by that time was known in all the headlines as "Two-Gun Crowley."

She didn't disclose the address of her apartment but the reporter didn't press her.

He already knew the address.

Whether Crowley really was there, and slim Helen Walsh, and Rudolph Duringer, too, as Billie had said, was another matter. O'Connor and the police would attend to it.

THOMAS J. PRESCOTT
Captain, Worcester Police Dept.
Police Square Club of Massachusetts

The other matter soon took shape. Police surrounded an uptown, west side apartment house: it was there that Billie had rooms.

Hours passed, and nothing happened. No one entered or left Billie's apartment. Police waited, and O'Connor, with Journal-American photographer Jerry Fraenkel, waited. Finally Fraenkel knocked on an apartment door.

Crowley jerked it open. Police pulled Fraenkel away. Crowley began firing. Then, as Crowley slammed the door shut, police guns blazed.

The police couldn't blast the trapped boy out with bullets. Through all the late afternoon he returned their fire. Their tear gas bombs were what beat him.

Thrice wounded, he staggered out. Helen Walsh and Duringer were pulled from beneath a bed. Jerry Fraenkel's photograph of them clinched the proof that O'Connor hadn't been misinformed.

Duringer, sullen to the end, was electrocuted for the murder of Virginia Brannen, whom he had killed in Crowley's presence.

Crowley, brazen to the end so far as spectator's knew, went to the chair for Patrolman Hirsch's murder. He even told his executioners how to kill him: "You better tighten up that strap around my left leg."

What spectators in Sing Sing's execution chamber didn't know was the manner of his farewell, a little earlier, to Warden Lewis E. Lawes. For a moment, then, all his bravado fell away.

"Warden Lawes, I never had a father," he said. "I was born illegitimate. Put your arms around me and let me call you daddy!"

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KIND-HEARTED CROOK

It was a sad night recently—and also a night of great thirst—when distinguished-looking Ralph Philip, who played Lord Bountiful to hundreds of London's needy, failed to show up in his favorite pubs.

In one oasis nearly a dozen seedy-looking hangers-on were clustered at a discreet distance from the bar, their eyes glued hungrily on the swinging doors. At any moment, they expected their tall, gray-haired friend to stride in with his usual cheery order:

"Drinks for the house, Alf!"

And, like as not, that wouldn't be all. On his way Ralph Philip usually stopped in Leadenhall and filled a large briefcase with expensive, hard-to-get delicacies, such as canned salmon, chicken and wine. These he handed out in the saloons—usually to men hard up and with ailing wives or children to feed. Often he'd carried his baskets quietly into London's poorer neighborhoods in order to dispose of them.

An eccentric millionaire with a heart of gold, that was how the poor devils he helped viewed Philip.

Toward 10 p.m. a thin, shabby individual burst into the pub waving a newspaper.

"'Ere, get a load of this!" shouted the newcomer. "The coppers 'ave nabbed Ralph Philip! Strike me pink, but they say 'e's a bloomin' thief!"

The thirsty hangers-on and the barkeeper clustered around incredulously. It was there in black and white, under a headline: "Robin Hood Clerk Arrested As Embezzler."

The story disclosed that Philip, the man they had believed to be a millionaire, was only a $20-a-week stockbroker's clerk. And he had confessed to helping himself generously to his employer's funds for 11 years, not to squander money on himself, but to help poor men and women whom he meet in pubs. Auditors had discovered embezzlements of 64,000 for the past four years alone.

WILLIAM L. O'DELL

Lieutenant, Cambridge Police Dept.

(Retired)

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

Scotland Yard detectives and Philip's bonding firm were jubilant over running down one whom they considered a big-time crook, but his pals of the pubs were sad and doubtful. Like most Englishmen, they did not condone crime—but was it really crime Philip had been guilty of?

"'Ardly ever did 'e spend a penny on 'imself," said one. "Maybe 'e took a glass of bitters now and then, but most of it went to others. Just like Robin 'ood. 'e was."

Philip offered not a word at his trial in Old Bailey. He stood equally silent as the court sentenced him to seven years.

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SWINDLERS' HARVEST

Danger At The Doorbell

Swindlers all over this country are eagerly reaping a rich harvest. The crop is ripe—$180,000,000,000 in savings or bonds, accumulated during the war years by thrifty Americans. These figures are from the U. S. Treasury Department. Racket-busting Better Business Bureaus have found 800 methods now being used by swindlers, who fall into four general classifications—doorbell gyppers, business opportunity confidence men, phony stock promoters and loan sharks. In this article, the third of a series of four, The American Weekly exposes tricks of the doorbell gyppers.

Lady, I've brought you the greatest beauty discovery of the century. The Magic Dimpler will give you irresistible dimples overnight. Dimples that will equal those of Claudette Colbert and Sonja Henie. And for only $5.00. It has a magic touch, as thousands who have tried it can tell you. Just let me show you how it works. You'll be grateful the rest of your life!"

Mrs. or Miss America answers her doorbell to be confronted by a smoothie with this line.

The dimple maker has appeared in many communities. It is a length of rubber covered wire and can be made for a few cents. The ends fasten over the ears like spectacle arms. The loop slides under the chin. Half way down the cheeks there are adjustable soft rubber points like pencil erasers. The buyer is instructed to smile before her mirror. Lines will appear on each cheek.

"Simply adjust the rubbers to the smile lines," says the gyp artist. "wear the miracle worker three or four times a day or go to bed with it on and lasting dimples will appear."

A silly thing, you might say. No one would fall for it. The New York Academy of Medicine reports it is more likely to bring on skin trouble than dimples. But in one community alone, a squad of salesmen took in $8,000 before they were chased out.

WINTHROP A. PALMER
Patrolman, Winchester Police Dept.
Police Square Club of Massachusetts

Cash deposits at doorsteps are easy pickings for the crooks. Pseudo salesmen for electrical appliances and household equipment promise housewives delivery "as soon as the product is available." The trusting victim never hears of her deposit money or the product again.

A variation of the doorbell petty chiseler is the phony rug salesman. He usually poses as the agent of a non-existing firm. He "cases" his prospect by learning in advance the name of one of her neighbor friends. He introduces himself by saying he has been sent by Mrs. So and So, who has just made a purchase from him.

This approach disarms the intended victim and the peddler usually is invited inside. There he unwinds samples of high quality and quotes ridiculously low prices. When the sale is clinched the dead-beat asks for a deposit, ranging from $30 to $75, gives a receipt and promises delivery in 10 days—the delay due to "a rush of business." Thus he can work a neighborhood several days before skipping.

The nylon stocking shortage gave an opportunity for a quick clean-up. Swindlers generally use stock forms with a phony firm name and address. They carry samples bearing gauge number and pre-war price mark. A deposit of half the amount of the order is required. The hose are never delivered.

One crook was apprehended who, if the prospect looked like a generous buyer, delivered a small order. He then returned, confidence established, and built his second order to a dozen or more pairs, with a 50 per cent deposit. No delivery was made. Complaints showed he had victimized women for $10,000.

A first story burglar worked Texas by obtaining down payments for well-known brands of sheets and pillow cases. When caught he had several postal money orders, an allotment check and mail stolen from mail boxes.

Food shortages brought on a renewed interest in vegetable gardening. The seeds were delivered but purchasers said they grew poorly or grew nothing. Plants that were ordered never arrived. One operating group was convicted in Chicago. It had taken 387,000 orders, for a total of $119,000.

A flower bulb gyp has a touch of art. A peddler shows a glass jar of water containing "a marvelous exotic bloom." It is often a primrose. If you buy the bulb for 50 cents and place it in a jar of water, after a few hours "you too will have a marvelous plant." After the peddler

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has gone you find it doesn't work. The peddler had attached the flower bloom to his sample bulb with a concealed wire.

A "meanest" swindler developed in the Middle West. The racketeer reads the death columns and then calls on widows. He claims to be the representative of an insurance company. He says he is making an investigation of the death of one of their policy holders—the late husband—and the policy pays $6,000 or some other plausible figure.

When the widow expresses surprise, the swindler states the policy had been paid up many years and doubtless her husband forgot to mention it. He needs fees for the "investigation" he must make before the claim is settled. He asks for as much as he thinks the prospect will pay, amounting in some cases to hundreds of dollars. After executing a form questionnaire, he promises to be back in two weeks with the full insurance.

In St. Louis over 100 widows were victimized. One, living in a room over a garage, dug into her funds hidden in a sugar can and parted with her last cash.

Law enforcement officers are vigilant and grab many of these crooks, but they are difficult to trace once they get away. They often use fictitious names, even make-up skill to change their appearance.

A concerted drive against this raid on the public purse was opened recently. Three hundred leaders of business, agriculture and education met in New York to devise a preventive program. Better Business Bureaus of 86 cities joined.

Richard R. Dupree, president of Proctor & Gamble, was chairman. The conference was endorsed by President Truman, the Treasury Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It recommended:

That the public be warned to be on the lookout for gyps and swindlers.

That all unfamiliar purchases be examined carefully and that everyone practice conservation of resources.

That the public report all suspicious schemes to police. And added this word of caution:

"After World War I, the public was swindled out of $400,000,000 in Liberty Bonds alone. Do not let them get the drop on us again. Safeguard your Bonds—Safeguard your Savings."

CHARLES H. HENDRICKSON

Sergeant, Metropolitan District Police

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

BARBARA WALKER'S "PERFECT CRIME"

By Irmis Johnson

Barbara Walker was angry. She was hurt, too. She had never felt more miserable in all her 23 years.

She had quarreled with her husband, Langdon, back only a few months from the war, and he had said, "I never want to see you again."

Hoping her wrath would cool, the irate wife went on a picnic with friends late last fall at a quiet spot near New Hampshire's Lake Echo. Langdon was working that day at the Eastern Slope Inn, North Conway, where he was employed as a chef. Two-year-old Langdon, Jr., was with his grandmother in near-by Intervale.

So far as Barbara was concerned, the picnic was a failure.

About 10:30 that evening she pleaded illness and went to her car near by. She said she was going for soda mints and wouldn't be long.

Barbara Walker never came back.

Alarmed by her long absence, Barbara's friends went to find her.

The car door stood open. On the floor lay Mrs. Walker's little flowered beret and clinging to it was a mass of tangled hair. Her lighted flashlight lay on the ground.

Barbara's moccasins seemed to have been torn from her feet and thrown on the grass. The scene suggested a terrific struggle.

Barbara couldn't be found.

State and local police were called in, a posse of 50 citizens collected, and Langdon Walker was notified.

All night long flashlights and flares lighted the neighborhood. All the next day airplanes droned over the area, looking for a body.

Lake Echo was dragged in vain.

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In a wooded area, near the road to Conway, Mrs. Walker's torn slacks were found. Someone picked up an old paper bag on which was scrawled, in lipstick, the plea "Help—Anyone."

The overwrought Mr. Walker said he suspected abduction. He wanted the FBI to join the hunt, on the ground that the kidnaper might have taken Barbara across the state line.

If only one of the many pairs of searching eyes had been looking earlier on the night of the disappearance, they might have seen a slight figure in a blue dress trudging along the road to the Conway railroad station.

These eyes would have seen a pretty girl board the Boston train. A listener might even have heard her mutter, "I hope he thinks I'm dead."

All the clues she had planted must have seemed ingenious to Barbara as she made her hurried plans to run away. The torn slacks in the woods probably seemed a master touch for making the police suspect an attacker.

Soon after the runaway wife's arrival in Boston she cashed two $100 War Bonds she'd taken from her savings and found herself a room at the YWCA. She'd made the first lap of the journey—perhaps out of her husband's life forever.

Stories in the Boston newspapers, however, made it clear to Barbara that she must not tarry too long. They speculated at length over what might have become of her.

Barbara's next step was to buy a plane ticket to Sacramento, Calif., where she had friends.

Everything was moving smoothly, now, like clockwork. She checked in.

With the calling of her flight—except for one little hitch, which she unwittingly introduced—Barbara Walker might have flown away into oblivion, to join the company of other vanished ladies.

Mother love caused the hitch.

As she paced the floor, waiting, she thought of her young son.

Maybe she would never see him again. Maybe the plane would crash. As the boy grew up, without his mother, would he have the advantages she wanted him to have?

GEORGE W. GARDNER

Sergeant, Boston Police Dept.
(Retired)

Past Treasurer

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

Her eyes grew misty—and then she realized she was staring at a sign: 25 cents for a $5,000 insurance policy.

She put a quarter on the counter, filled out a blank, making little Langdon the beneficiary, and signed the fictitious name "Margaret Walker."

Barbara scribbled her son's name and her home address on an envelope, stamped it and dropped it in a mail box. Her flight was called again—everything moved like clockwork.

In her haste, she didn't realize that her handwriting would be recognized. It was as soon as that envelope arrived at her home.

"Thank God I know she's alive," her husband said.

When Deputy Sheriff Herbert Taylor of North Conway heard about the insurance policy, covering a flight from Boston to Sacramento, he said that fitted in with another clue he'd been investigating. The night before she went on the picnic, Barbara had tried to put through a long distance call to Miles Tenuto, an exbartender, in Lake Tahoe, Nevada. Lake Tahoe is near Sacramento.

New Hampshire authorities stopped looking. The state had spent thousands of dollars hunting for Barbara, but all it took to solve the case was a 25-cent insurance policy.

Barbara was found working as a waitress in a restaurant in Town Line, Calif., not far from Lake Tahoe.

She told California authorities a 19-year-old youth had kidnaped her, knocked her unconscious, driven her to Boston, and later made her cash the bonds at the point of a gun.

Then where did she get the dress she wore instead of her slacks when she arrived at the YWCA in Boston?

Barbara finally admitted the whole thing was a hoax, planned because of that quarrel with Langdon. The dress had been in her car.

She had meant to vanish completely, but was glad to be found.

"I don't want a divorce," she said. "I want my baby—and Langdon."

When Langdon heard that, he forgave her. He and Langdon, Jr., flew out to California. Walker said:

"We are going to start all over again as if nothing had happened."

As for Miles Tenuto, to whom Mrs. Walker tried to make that call, Langdon explained that he was an old friend of both Barbara and himself.

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MURDER IN THE DELL

Perched On His High Pole On The Mountainside, Ferris Was To Witness a Strange Drama From His Unusual Balcony Seat

Afterward, Lynd Ferris knew how it felt to watch while a murder was actually being committed. But he did not relish the experience.

A storm in the Sierras makes trouble for linemen. But usually Lynd liked his work. On this windy May morning, far up a mountain side and atop a telegraph pole, he remembered that to the north far below him should be a small and charming dell about which pines and mountain lilac were ringed like sentinels. In that pretty place he had kissed Kerry for the first time. Four years ago.

There had been some kind of mountain flowers in the centre of the dell, soft little white and pink blossoms. Soft and dainty like Kerry. And they had had it to themselves.

It was secluded and hard to find, and the car had to be left some distance below. Not many people cared to climb a twisting steep path.

Four years ago. He had been to war and returned. Kerry had waited for him, earning plenty of money meanwhile. Wages for women went up, like bombs during the war. Kerry was clever and saving.

Now they had a comfortable apartment, a car, and a bank balance for their own home payment. And Kerry had seen no reason to give up her own $45 a week when Lynd got back.

Why should she, she asked sensibly, when she could care for a small apartment with part of one firm hand?

WALTER E. HOUGHTON

Patrolman, Newburyport Police Dept.
(Retired)

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

And so. Lynd now asked himself, what had he to grouch about? Nothing! He was lucky. Only, he reflected, if he were to tell Kerry that he had stopped work for five minutes to unstrap his field glasses and gaze sentimentally down toward the place where he had first kissed her, she would lift sleek dark eyebrows in amusement. Before he went to war, she had been a soft cuddly little thing just out of high school. So what? She was older. And she was a darned good wife. He was lucky. Say! There was another couple in the dell!

A man and a woman. Picnic pair. They carried a white basket and a blanket. He focused his high-powered glasses. He was a little annoyed. He didn't like to see them in his and Kerry's private retreat.

Then he grinned at his own egotism. They were no young pair. The woman was heavyset and wore a dark cloth coat. The man had a paunch.

There were the same little pink and white flowers in the centre. The man tramped over them. "I'd like to sock him in the jaw," Lynd muttered. Kerry would smile over that, too.

Then Lynd forgot Kerry and himself. The man stepped up to the woman and struck so hard that she fell to the ground! And then he found a stone, and struck her again. Then he disappeared into the woods.

Lynd thought: Why, the killer would be miles away before Lynd could climb down the pole and report him. Then Lynd was ashamed of his own slow mind! And he a lineman!

From where he sat he plugged in and gave a sheriff explicit directions to the place. Not that there was much reason for haste. The woman, apparently, could not be helped now. Then he looked again and almost fell from his perch.

The man had returned. With a spade. He must have hidden it beforehand. Premeditation. Almost hypnotized, Lynd watched the man begin to dig. Again Lynd plugged in and told what he watched.

Two deputies had already started. The officer in the station suddenly became suspicious. "Now, listen, if this is some crank's idea of humor—"

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"Call up the phone company! They'll tell you who I am and where I am. You should see that devil dig! Now he's taking off her shoes. That means he'll dispose of her clothes and hinder identification."

Minutes passed swiftly. The man worked with terrible haste. And with the spade, he raked leaves and needles into a heap beside the open grave.

Lynd heard two motorcycles down below. The man heard, too. The roar of two machines ceased. Now Lynd knew that the officers were climbing the narrow dirt path. Well, he and Kerry would never climb it again.

He was shaking with anger at the man who had spoiled everything. He went back to his splicing, glancing down every other minute as he watched the arrest.

Finally the deputy sheriffs appeared with their prisoner. Then they looked up to talk to Lynd.

"Man, what a break for the force!" exclaimed one officer. "How come you happened to be squinting down at the spot?"

Lynd's face turned red. "Just looking around for any smoke," he said stiffly. "Thought a gray wisp needed a onceover."

"If that's your story, you'll likely stick to it." The officer grinned. "Bet, though, you and a girl knew that spot."

Lynd finished his job and went to join his partner Jensen about a mile away. Jensen put the same question. "How come you looked down there?"

"Just loafing on my job," said Lynd sulkily.

"Some people have all the luck."

"You could have had my share and welcome," Lynd retorted.

The evening papers were on the street by the time he and Jensen reached Los Angeles, where they lived. It was a sordid story. Common-law wife, and a man sick of her nagging. Caught red-handed—which doesn't happen often.

ANDREW K. ADAIR

Sergeant, Boston Police Dept.

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

Kerry was reading the newspaper when he finally got home. She looked up from the paper.

"Lynd, how terrible!"

"Pretty bad."

"How did you happen to be looking down, Lynd?"

Now it was coming. And he would not like to see the faint smile in Kerry's eyes because he was as sentimental as a high school kid. Well, she likely would not smile; the story was too awful. But she was looking at him intently.

Suddenly she began to cry.

"Kerry, honey," he begged. "Don't cry. It doesn't affect us. I'm sorry you had to know."

Kerry put the paper away. Reporters arrived.

"You ought to get a reward," suggested a reporter.

"Oh, no!" Kerry cried.

"I wouldn't want any reward," Lynd said briefly.

He wanted to forget the little pink and white mountain flowers. There are few enough lovely memories in a lifetime. And this one had been lovely—spoiled now for all the days of his life.

"Lynd," she called later.

"What, honey?"

"It was our dell, wasn't it. That's why you were looking down?"

"Yes, baby. That's why I was looking down."

"Oh, I hope he is punished!" Now she was sobbing bitterly. "Why did he have to choose our place!"

"Honey, there are hundreds of other places like it. We'll find another."

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"Hundreds. But only one where we first kissed," she agreed dreamily.

"Kerry! You're a fraud! You had me fooled and how!"

He had her on his lap and somehow she seemed to have grown small and more cuddly than even in the beginning four years ago.

CARL STENGEL

Patrolman, Boston Police Dept.
(Retired)

Past Secretary

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

STRANGE ANGLES ON THE DOPE PROBLEM

The War Has Stopped Much of the Illegal Traffic in Narcotics. But It Has Forced Addicts to Get and Hide Their Supplies In Curious Ways

By FRANCES SPATZ

High up in the list of topsy-turvy conditions in a topsy-turvy world is the narcotics problem—long a headache to the Federal authorities.

Strangely, world confusion, in some ways, has brought improvement where, in the past, vigilance and order failed.

Shipping restrictions and the closing of frontiers have reduced the number of known dope addicts in the United States.

Supplies of narcotics from India, China, Iran, Afghanistan, Japan, Turkey and Yugoslavia have been cut off entirely. Illicit importations to this country, amounting to many tons in peacetime, dropped to a mere 447 pounds.

This shortage slashed the number of addicts from one in 1,000 of the population to one in every 3,000. The supply couldn't fill the demand, so the dope peddlers resorted to spreading the stuff.

The thinning process has reached the stage where some of the peddled "stuff" actually contains only 1 per cent of real dope. The rest is "sugar," consisting of sugar of milk or lactose, perfectly harmless.

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By taking the concoction the addicts are unwittingly cutting down on their doses and virtually are curing themselves. Believing they are getting the real stuff they fancy relief after taking it.

But there is a dark side to the question. The disruption and scarcity of narcotic supplies have thrown a large part of the American addict population into a panic. And an addict in panic will go to extremes in obtaining the stuff.

A dramatic report of the U. S. Bureau of Narcotics states tersely:

"Pharmacists are being deluged with forged narcotic prescriptions. Blank pads are stolen from doctors' desks by addicts. Several times the Bureau has called attention to numerous thefts of physicians' bags containing narcotics. A doctor's bag left in a parked automobile near a hospital is invariably stolen by a drug addict.

"Physicians are being imposed on in various ways with increased frequency by addicts."

Many a doctor has been held up in his office by an addict while the intruder's girl rifled cabinets seeking drugs or prescription blanks.

The Narcotics Bureau files are filled with weird cases showing the great lengths "hop heads" resort to in an effort to get relief.

For example one addict simulated hemorrhages. Having cut the blood vessels under his tongue he would appear at doctors' offices.

With smoking opium, morphine, heroin, codeine, dionin, cocaine and marihuana trickling through underground channels at low ebb, addicts have taken grotesque pains to conceal supply.

Users have been known to hide heroin in a pearl necklace and to smoke opium concealed in pipes camouflaged as china cows.

Thus Narcotics Agents have found narcotics in every conceivable place—in a chicken's head, a rabbit's foot, in sausages, in tombstones, inside of furniture, mixed with toothpowder, with soy beans, in walls, heels of shoes, false belts, vests and in tiny containers strapped to legs.

All ships which come into port must be practically torn apart in the search for the illicit drugs. U. S. Customs officials have found caches in every conceivable nook and cranny.

HARRINGTON B. WYAND

Lieutenant, Boston Police Dept.

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

With dope in the illicit market ten times more valuable than gold, racketeers were not stymied for long. Right after Pearl Harbor they turned to a hitherto ignored source of supply—Latin America.

Narcotics officials have for years been greatly concerned because our laws have failed to be a sufficient deterrent. Under the Harrison Act, five years is the maximum punishment for each count in a drug violation.

With time off for good behavior, distributors and addicts are soon back at their old game.

For seven years, Harry J. Anslinger, U. S. Commissioner of Narcotics, campaigned for stiffer punishment. Finally a law was passed in 1937, making the punishment increasingly severe with each subsequent conviction on a narcotics violation charge. Second offense would bring a sentence of 10 years, third or subsequent offenses, a sentence of 20 years.

This was good news to those who match wits daily with the drug offenders.

However, for some unfathomable reason this law has never been put to use.

"As long as narcotic violators travel in a vicious circle from violation to violation with short prison stops between," Anslinger said, "it will be impossible to eradicate the drug evil and protect the public from the drug menace."

How real this peril is can be seen in a case where an innocent boy had to visit jail when he wanted to see his mother, who had been sent there as a drug fiend.

John W. Bulkley, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Customs, charged with searching ships for illicit drug imports, said:

"We feel that the New York Baumes law, giving life imprisonment for a fourth time felony offender could well be universally adopted. At any rate, strong adequate sentences are necessary to stamp out the illicit trafficking in narcotics."

The Eliopoulos brothers, George and Elias, Greek nationals, were called by the Bureau of Narcotics "The No. 1 narcotics smuggling combination of all time."

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Back in the 20s and 30s they were said to have maintained a virtual world monoply in illicit narcotic traffic.

The brothers boasted the friendship of kings and princes. However, with the coming of war, the possibility of prosecution in U. S. courts held less terror for them than the uncertainties of war-torn Europe, so they came to America.

Narcotics officials practically licked their chops at the chance to even the score.

Their indictment was based on a seizure of morphine landed from the steamship Alesia, consisting of 25 cases labeled "furs" and containing narcotics worth millions of dollars.

For two weeks a Federal jury in Brooklyn heard evidence about the brothers. then found both guilty of violating the Harrison Act on two counts and in addition, Elias was convicted of conspiracy. Then on Oct. 8. 1943, Judge Matthew T. Abruzzo, U. S. District Court, Eastern District of New York, ordered the verdict set aside.

One of the most shameful cases growing out of the war has been the theft of morphine syrettes from parachute first aid kits at Love Field. Tex. These syrettes are morphine-filled hypodermics designed for self administering to relieve the pain of a flier injured after bailing out.

One of the most flagrant cases of drug act violation took place last summer.

Woodward R. Mitchell was a doctor in Shidler, Okla. and a former legislator. When narcotics officials caught up with him, they found his violations so extensive he was charged on ten counts and faced with a possible 50-year sentence and a $2,000 fine. When he was found guilty by the jury—the judge sentenced Mitchell to two years in the penitentiary with five years of probation.

While digging into Mitchell's previous court record, Federal agents found that Mitchell was indicted for narcotic violations in 1934 and 1935. but both cases had been dismissed.

Then last summer, narcotics men knew something was amiss. At all hours men entered the doctor's office stealthily.

WILLIAM G. HEYD

Chief, Belmont Police Dept.

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

It was also whispered that one did not need to come in person but could mail orders for a supply.

An agent under an assumed name wrote from Little Rock, Ark., enclosing $50 and asking Mitchell to mail 100 half-grain tablets of morphine. Notwithstanding the fact that the doctor had never seen the "patient" the drugs were sent.

Though he lived in a town of about 1,000 population, Mitchell, it was testified, in a little over a year, had bought 101,900 one-half grain tablets of morphine, 20,100 one-quarter grain tablets of morphine, 10 one-eighth ounce bottles of bulk morphine, 4,900 grains of morphine and atropine, aside from other types of opium derivatives.

The biggest case in 1944 concerned Indian opium, a Chinese crew member, a U. S. gunner and a ship named Chung Tung—turned over to the Chinese in Lend-Lease.

The amount of opium involved was 63½ pounds, a catch unheard of in recent years.

Pang Jong Hock, 31, a native of Weichow, China, who spoke fluent English, heard of the predicament of the United States drug addicts.

At Bombay he invested $1,000 for the 63½ pounds of precious cargo. Packing it in six cardboard boxes which he sealed airtight to keep the sickly sweet opium smell from being noticed by crew members, he put it in two suitcases.

Cornering a U. S. gunner with a sufficiently naive look, he offered him $50 to hide the opium.

Very co-operatively the sailor agreed, meanwhile notifying his superior officer.

Pang Jong Hock relaxed. Later he offered $300 to the sailor to take the suitcases ashore and hold them at a certain hotel.

As the gunner left the ship in Baltimore in October of 1944, he was met by a Customs agent who exchanged the dope for heavy books and left the boy at the hotel.

Soon a phone call came. Pang's voice asked would the boy please bring the suitcases to the Pennsylvania Station.

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He did, and as the delivery was accepted, Customs agents closed in. Pang went to jail.

Even Congress has shown its concern by adopting the Judd resolution authorizing the President to send notes to all opium-producing countries urging them not to produce opium in excess of medicinal needs after the war.

But while great headway has been made in this homefront problem, United States narcotics officials do not hesitate to express grave concern over two other possible developments.

The first is that sleeping tablets will become a new form of addiction. Over three billion doses of drugs were sold last year to "quiet nerves."

The second concern is that American soldiers stationed in Oriental lands are subject to temptation as they have never been before.

FRANK L. WARREN

Probation Officer

and

Instructor, Thompson Island Band

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

MR. WOLF'S VANISHED MILLIONS

Wrinkled, bent and bitter, Walter Wolf walked out of Stateville prison near Joliet, Ill., a few weeks ago, his own master for the first time in 15 years.

Brushing aside newsmen who awaited him, he hurried with his companion, the prison's Lutheran chaplain, to a parked car, muttering:

"I talked to no one when I came in. I'll talk to no one when I go out."

Thus Wolf's determined silence continues to cloak in mystery one of the greatest embezzlements in the history of American banking.

While employed as a $75-a-week bank department manager, he contrived in some unexplained manner to embezzle $3,666,929.06 from the Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company, one of Chicago's most conservative banks.

Where did the money go? How did Wolf manage to get such an amount without detection? Was he protecting someone? If so, who was it? Where is this vast fortune now? These were the questions asked in 1931, when Wolf, then 42, threw himself on the mercy of the court and was sentenced to 10 consecutive terms of 1 to 10 years each.

These questions are being revived today as Wolf, with a job as factory inspector in a large industrial plant on Chicago's West Side, takes up his life as a free man once more.

Neighbors and friends in the suburban community of Oak Park to which he returned do not believe he was really guilty.

Neither does his brown-eyed wife, Esther, 55, nor his 25-year-old daughter, Marjorie Ann. Friends ask:

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"How could a man have taken such a vast fortune without putting one penny of it to his own profit or use? Obviously, he never lived beyond his income."

They scoff at the theory that the former bank department manager could have "salted away" the money.

In this they have the support of Lloyds of London and their Chicago representatives, Toplis and Harding.

Back in 1931 Lloyds paid the Continental Illinois $2,000,000 for Wolf's defalcations, the amount to which the bank was covered by insurance.

Then after thorough investigation, the then president of Toplis and Harding announced that his company was satisfied Wolf had retained none of the money.

Today an official of the same company reiterates the opinion, saying:

"Our books were closed on this case 15 years ago and we have no intention of reopening them. The man hasn't got a quarter."

Where, then, did the money go?

Wolf himself said at the time he had lost all he took in the stock-market. In the years since he has never changed that statement.

According to the story he told then, his staggering fraud of nearly $4,000,000 was built up over a period of 12 years solely in an effort to cover an initial theft of a paltry $500.

His career as an embezzler began in 1919 when with his own savings, accumulated through small weekly deposits, he went to a brokerage house to buy 10 shares of stock.

There somebody told him the way to win was by buying on margin.

Wolf listened to this siren song and bought 100 shares on margin. The market turned against him. He was told to recoup his losses by taking a flyer at a "sure thing."

CHARLES BAILEY

Sergeant, Boston Police Dept.
(Retired)

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

Then, for the first time, Wolf took some of the bank's gilt edged stocks and bonds to put up as collateral on his margin account.

Year after year he continued his market speculations, always, by a process of day to day substitution, using the bank's securities as collateral.

According to his story his speculations always went wrong.
Once or twice, he said he did make a million or so but never enough to allow him to pay back the bank.

Wolf never changed his own habits. He came home at his regular hour, pottered around the house and garden, chatted with the neighbors and went to church every Sunday.

There was only one change. He grew so thin and haggard that his wife thought his health was breaking. Finally, the strain became unbearable. Spurred by conscience, he called Abner Stilwell, one of the bank's vice-presidents, to his home and there in a dramatic scene confessed his still unsuspected thefts.

Bank officials were astounded. Onlookers were equally amazed at Wolf's co-operative attitude.

As a result, several hundred thousand dollars worth of the missing securities were recovered from various brokerage offices. The remainder —valued at more than $3,000,000—were never accounted for.

It was Wolf's turn to be astounded when having given all the help he could, he was brought into court. The heavy sentence imposed staggered him, turned him bitter. He said:

"I was promised that if I helped all I could, I would be given a light sentence. Attorneys told me they would get me off with 18 months."

In several later attempts to win a shorter sentence, Wolf repeated the allegation that promises had not been kept and declared time after time that his embezzlements never reached beyond the $3,000,000 figure to which he had earlier confessed.

He admitted the confession but alleged that he had never taken more than $1,200,000. Bank officials strenuously denied Wolf's contentions and efforts on his behalf ceased in 1936 when the Illinois Supreme Court affirmed his sentence.

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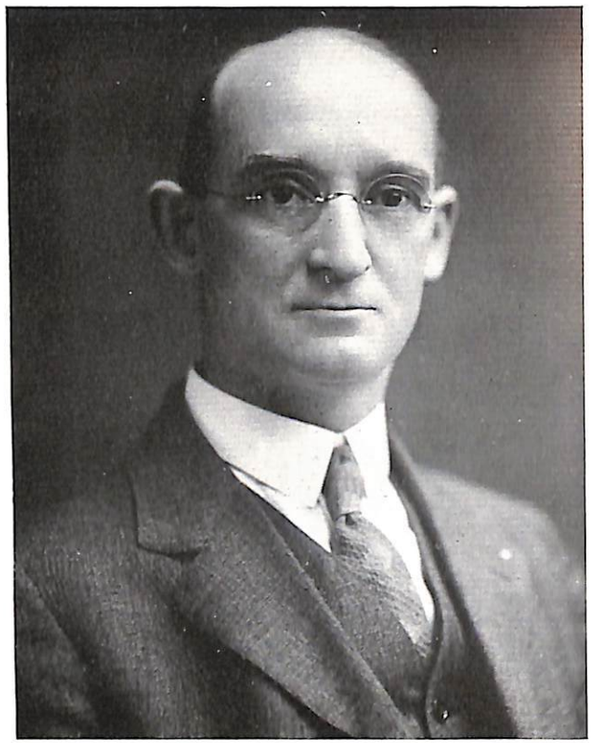
Even his release from prison has not changed Wolf's bitterness. Though still unwilling to clear up the mystery of where the missing millions went, his grim face and defiant attitude proclaim him to be a man who thinks himself misused.



WILLIAM A. SAYWARD

Lieutenant, Boston Police Dept.
(Retired)

Auditor

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

WASHINGTON DEAD-LINE

The city editor leaned back, his feet on his desk. A few of the staff lounged beside their typewriters, talking shop. It was the tag-end of a dull night—so they thought in the editorial room of the Washington Herald—with nothing more urgent left to do than to wait for the presses to roll.

Then the city desk's radio, tuned in on police calls, began a staccato report. "A shooting has occurred—over the Maryland line—Takoma Park—that it all, at present."

It didn't sound like a stop-press story, but lean, steel-wired Ray Helgesen, the city editor, held to the old theory that you never can tell. He was on a dead-line, but he still had time to make over Page One and catch the last of his paper's run.

"Let's get on this, men," he said, and he didn't know it then, but he was moving in on a story that would stay on Page One for months. He was heading into a maze of gangland treachery and intrigue. Ahead were dead-lines, of one kind or another for his staff, for himself and finally for a ruthless mob.

He was taking the first step in a campaign of public service by which his newspaper (now the Washington Times-Herald) helped rout out of Washington its toughest racketeers, and finally hastened the capture of five professional assassins who heard juries return the verdict "guilty."

On that first night, October 23, 1934, seconds counted. Helgesen looked up from his desk.

"George, get started. Jimmy, go with him. Takoma Park."

Little George Waters and beanpole Jimmy Cullinane, ace reporters, jumped. They took Waters' roadster. In 20 minutes, they were phoning back.

"Ray, this guy they bumped off is on our paper. He's a delivery man out here. Name, Allen D. Wilson. Looks like a gang was sitting

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back waiting for him. About 50 bullets riddled his car. One of them got him in the back of the head. But that's not the story. The gang got the wrong man. They were waiting for someone else. They thought Wilson was a gambler named Mickey McDonald. They killed our circulator, Wilson, and thought they were knocking off McDonald."

"O. K.," Helgesen said. Wilson had met his dead-line. His paper would make over Page One for the story—a special dead-line. "Give it in fast to Pat."

Pat Frank, on re-write, took the facts, wrote the story. A little later the presses stopped. A re-plate was loaded on. The presses rolled again. The paper, with the made-over Page One, hit the street with the report under a two-column head:

MACHINE GUNNERS
RIDDLE INNOCENT
MAN IN D. C. WAR

Allen Wilson, 32, a route carrier for the Herald, married and the father of three children, about 4 o'clock that morning had turned his car, to make a delivery, into the driveway leading to the big, gabled house of McDonald, the gambler. From behind an oak tree, men in ambush had opened up on him with a machine gun, then with pistols and a shotgun. McDonald heard the shots and from within the house saw the murderer's car speed away.

Police and the Herald's reporters found the rolling grounds around the house floodlighted. Mickey, pudgy and quaking, met them at the door, waveringly challenged them with a pistol, then let them in, explaining he'd known that he'd been marked for death.

"Why?" the Herald's men asked.

"I'm a silent partner in a good many Washington businesses," Mickey said.

The next day it began to become clear what kind of businesses Mickey was in. It appeared that he'd stood in the way of some of Washington's most powerful racketeer gamblers.

The Herald had never made a moral issue of gambling. Gambling was a man's own affair. Gang rule was something else. So was assassination.

HARRY C. JACKSON

Patrolman, Metropolitan Police Dept.

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

"We'll keep this story alive until the case is cleaned up," Helgesen said. "Mrs. Patterson, our publisher, is willing to spend whatever we need. Racketeering gamblers can't make their own laws here and they can't kill one of our men without trouble. Let's go to it."

Helgesen paid a personal call on Mickey. He wanted to know whom Mickey had feared.

Mickey received him coldly and with decorum. Oak leaves were falling outside. In a richly furnished drawing room, logs flickered in a fireplace. Mickey brought out expensive whiskey and eyed his guest.

"You and I want the same thing," Helgesen told him.

"Yeah?" Mickey said, and sipped his drink.

"We want to round up the men who pulled this. They were out to get you once: they may be again. I don't want them to get anybody."

Mickey softened after that. "Come on, I'll show you something," he said.

In his garage, he pointed to the wreck of his car. "I came out one morning three weeks ago with the wife and kid. We all three got in the front seat. When I stepped on the starter, the whole front end almost busted through the roof."

A dynamite expert's check was startling. He found that one charge of explosive had been put under the car's hood, and wired to an odd-numbered sparkplug. Another charge—a stick of dynamite—had been put under the seat, and wired to an even-numbered sparkplug. When Mickey had stepped on the starter, the current from the odd-numbered plug had exploded the charge under the hood; the even-numbered plug hadn't set off the other charge because the first dynamite stick's explosion had almost instantaneously torn the connection away.

"I guess they really meant to get me," Mickey said.

"Who?" Helgesen demanded. "Why?"

At that point, Mickey bridled. He wouldn't say.

No one else seemed to want to give up the secret. It was a tough mystery. The Herald staff tackled it, and through most of the year it

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didn't let up. Frank C. Waldrop, then a young reporter and now Times-Herald's editorial writer, worked ingeniously and indomitably; so did young Mason Peters, now night managing editor and Gus Miller. So, also, did the three who handled the story the first night, Cullinane, Waters and Frank. (Finally, after Helgesen left the paper for a while, Charles Duffy, succeeding him, kept up the rigorous work; Duffy now is a Navy captain.) Sometimes the reporters would work two or three days with almost no sleep; then take a few hours rest; start again; the story stayed on Page One.

In Washington, the seat of law making—and headquarters of grafters and racketeers—an underworld syndicate raised $10,000 and offered it to the murdered Wilson's widow if she could induce the newspapers to call off the story. That was for Page One.

The Crime Prevention Committee of Forty of the District Bar Association appointed a Permanent Committee on Criminal Justice. That was for Page One, too.

So, too, on Page One was the refusal of officials of Prince Georges County, Maryland, to accept information from the Herald concerning notorious gambling operations continuing on their side of the state line—the state line close to which the murder had been committed.

When public and official interest in the case began to wane, the Herald stirred it again and again. Finally Cissie Patterson, the Times-Herald's brilliant publisher, asked Helgesen what else could be done to help in the detection of the killers.

"There's one thing," the city editor said. "We could get every gambling place in the city closed. Every one. That way, we might make someone squeal."

"Try it." Cissie decided. "Spend as much as you have to."

"We'll want to close La Fontaine's too," Helgesen said. That was a big undertaking. La Fontaine's, over the border in Maryland, was the largest and most powerful gambling casino between New York and Florida.

"La Fontaine's too," the publisher said.

Since it was outside of Washington, city police couldn't touch it. Maryland officials didn't. The Herald, determined to make the region's

HARRY J. AINSWORTH

Former Chief, Wilmington Police Dept.

Court Officer, Fourth District Court, Woburn

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

clean-up complete, hit upon a plan to dramatize the resort's defiance of the law. Waldrop, the investigating reporter, checked real estate records, thinking there was one chance in 1,000 that part of La Fontaine's establishment extended over the line into the District of Columbia. He found he was right. The white, wooden fence ran 40 feet over on District property. The Herald decided to do something about that fence.

"What we need is a tractor," Helgesen said. He wanted it, and he got one, and accompanied by reporters and photographers, it rolled out Bladenburg Road one morning, full speed toward the fence.

Jimmy La Fontaine's lieutenants heard its rumbling approach. They stood in consternation as it minced the fence. The splinters flew along all the 40 feet of District property.

La Fontaine didn't know what to make of it. Something inexplicable was moving in on him. Helgesen and his men spread reports of pending Federal action. La Fontaine, at last nonplussed, locked up tight.

Now Washington and the surrounding area were free of gambling casinos. No one was squealing, however, in the Wilson case, and not all the racketeers had departed. The Herald staff learned that in various ways, some unpleasant. Waldrop, Peters and Helgesen were threatened. Pat Frank was threatened and vain efforts to bribe him were made.

"Lay off the case," the racketeers warned, but the staff didn't lay off.

Finally Helgesen got a different kind of warning. After leaving his car snowed in for six days, he saw one day that a bright sun had thawed the snowfall. He stepped on the starter, and couldn't start it. When a mechanic came, he looked under the hood, and then he looked at Helgesen with something like amazement.

"What are these wires?" he asked.

"I don't know," Helgesen told him.

"You better get an expert," the mechanic said.

Helgesen guessed what kind of expert. An FBI dynamite specialist helped him out. The specialist found wires leading from the ignition

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to a point under the seat, and under the seat was a stick of dynamite. The thawing snow had saved the city editor's life—defeated the mob's dead-line set for him.

In September, 1935, a little less than a year after the murder, a trap snapped. It closed in Baltimore on a shifty-eyed, terrified gangster named Dewey Jenkins, and he was a prize catch, for he began to squeal.

Within a month seven men were rounded up. Jenkins and moon-faced William Henry Cleary turned state's evidence. They confessed that the lot were hired assassins, commissioned to kill the gambler, Mickey McDonald, because—they said—McDonald had been turning in rival gambling dive operators to the authorities.

Two are serving life terms: Albert Sutton, the leader, and John Dunn, his first lieutenant.

One, Claude Bailey, was shot and killed as he tried to escape from a cell.

Two others took their own lives: Tony "The Stinger" Cugino, a trigger man, hanged himself in a New York prison before the trial; Ernest Welling Myers, also a trigger man, hanged himself in a cell near those of his accomplices, Sutton and Dunn, in Maryland State Penitentiary.

Only the two who gave state's evidence remain alive and free—and ever since their release they've made sure to stay clear of the territory where Times-Herald men meet dead-lines.

JOHN T. HARRINGTON

Chief, Phillipston Police Dept.

Police Square Club of Massachusetts

THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

Respect for the law is the foundation of all government. Whatever weakens confidence in the courts and the administration of justice weakens the entire fabric of civilization.

Man is a temperamental animal. Today he is a saint; tomorrow he may be a devil, and it is to protect himself against himself that he makes laws. The more civilized he becomes the more need he finds for restraint and the more laws he makes.

CIVILIZATION has reached a point where nearly every human act is regulated by law. From the birth certificate required by ordinance to the burial certificate demanded by statute, almost every step of our lives is shadowed by legal enactment, even to what we shall eat and drink.

As long as the law applies with equal force to all, man is content, but the moment it enters his mind that his neighbor is being favored over himself, he becomes dissatisfied and seeks means to circumvent the law for which he has lost respect.

JUSTICE is pictured as blind, but there is a growing suspicion these days that the glint of gold is dazzling enough to penetrate the bandage and that the industrial giant finds more favor in the lady's eyes than his humbler brother.

This may be due largely to the absurd complexities that have been woven into the simple question of right and wrong and that are far beyond the comprehension of the average mind, or to the puzzling ability of the well-endowed to escape or delay punishment. Whatever the cause, the fact remains that the masses today have not the respect for the law that they should have. Therein lies one of the causes of unrest in America.

"TOM JONES" appears in court charged with grand larceny. He appears before the bench clad in ragged garments, his eyes are black-

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ened, his face covered with the stubble of days; in fact, he is altogether an ill-conditioned, sorry looking figure, the very type of a vicious character. Tom has no attorney because he has no money. The court assigns him a lawyer, usually a young inexperienced one, maybe a boy just out of law school, confused by his first case. He does the best he can for Tom, which is not much.

There is no one to file delaying motions for Tom; no experts to testify that he was insane at the time of the robbery, no one to ask for a change of venue, and there are none of the many motions that might delay the sentence. Tom gets five years, and in short order he is hurried to the penitentiary. Justice has been done, and done rapidly.

"J. MILTON MONEYBAGS" appears in court charged with embezzling half a million dollars from a trust fund. He appears before the judge sleek, well fed, clean shaven, well groomed and exuding prosperity and well being. He is surrounded by an assemblage of great legal talent—former judges and woolsacks, many of them leading lights of the profession.

Fifteen continuances are secured, twelve different kinds of motions for change of venue; lack of jurisdiction, pleas for abatement and the like are filed and argued at length; psychological experts testify that the defendant was suffering from "dementia bla bla" which causes a man to embezzle funds during an attack; handwriting experts swear to this and that; appeal after appeal is taken; the constitution is dragged into the case and it goes to the Supreme Court several years later. Occasionally a conviction is secured. In the meantime public anger has cooled and most people have forgotten what the case was all about. Heaps of money are spent to circulate petitions for Mr. Moneybags' pardon; politicians importune the Governor; doctors testify that his health is failing because of prison regime; and pretty soon Tommy Jones at his prison shoe machine sees Mr. Moneybags leave his clerical job in the penitentiary, a free man.

THE FAULT lies not so much with the courts as it does with the law, which has become a mystic maze, the only guides through which are expensive attorneys. Mr. Moneybags' high priced lawyers make dilatory motions that Tommy Jones' young lawyer never heard of. Is justice in America to be meted out in proportion to the kindness of the defendant's legal advisors? Is Tom Jones, innocent, to go to jail because he has poor counsel, while Mr. Moneybags, guilty, is to go

CLARENCE E. HYDE

Sergeant, Boston Police Dept.
(Retired)

Board of Directors

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free because his astute lawyers have found that the "T" in the word indict was not crossed?

In the Era of Greater Humanity, which must come to America if the vicious creed of Communism is to be crushed, the law should be much simplified and its processes made more intelligible to the average mentality. There should be state defenders as well as state prosecutors. Today the taxpayers' money is used to send guilty men to the penitentiary, but none is used to keep innocent men out, yet the law presumes a man to be innocent until he is proved guilty.

The statutes should be so changed that a man with a just claim against a corporation will not be compelled to compromise to carry his cause to a successful conclusion. The law should be so simplified that he who runs may read and understand without paying interpreters.

In the Era of Greater Humanity, the great lawyer will not be he who can find ways to evade the law, but he who can interpret the law in a spirit of justice and mercy for every human being, yet not a justice untempered with compassion.

Respect for the law must be secured, but it will only be secured when the poorest of the Lord's creatures is treated by the law with the same even-handed consideration that is accorded the most richly endowed of His children.

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